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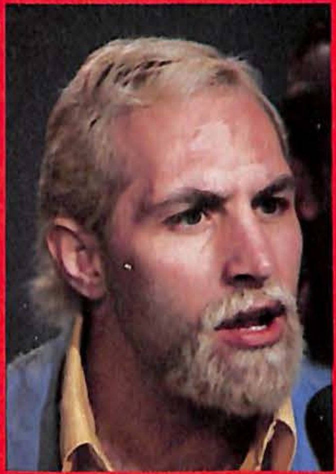
THE Wrestler



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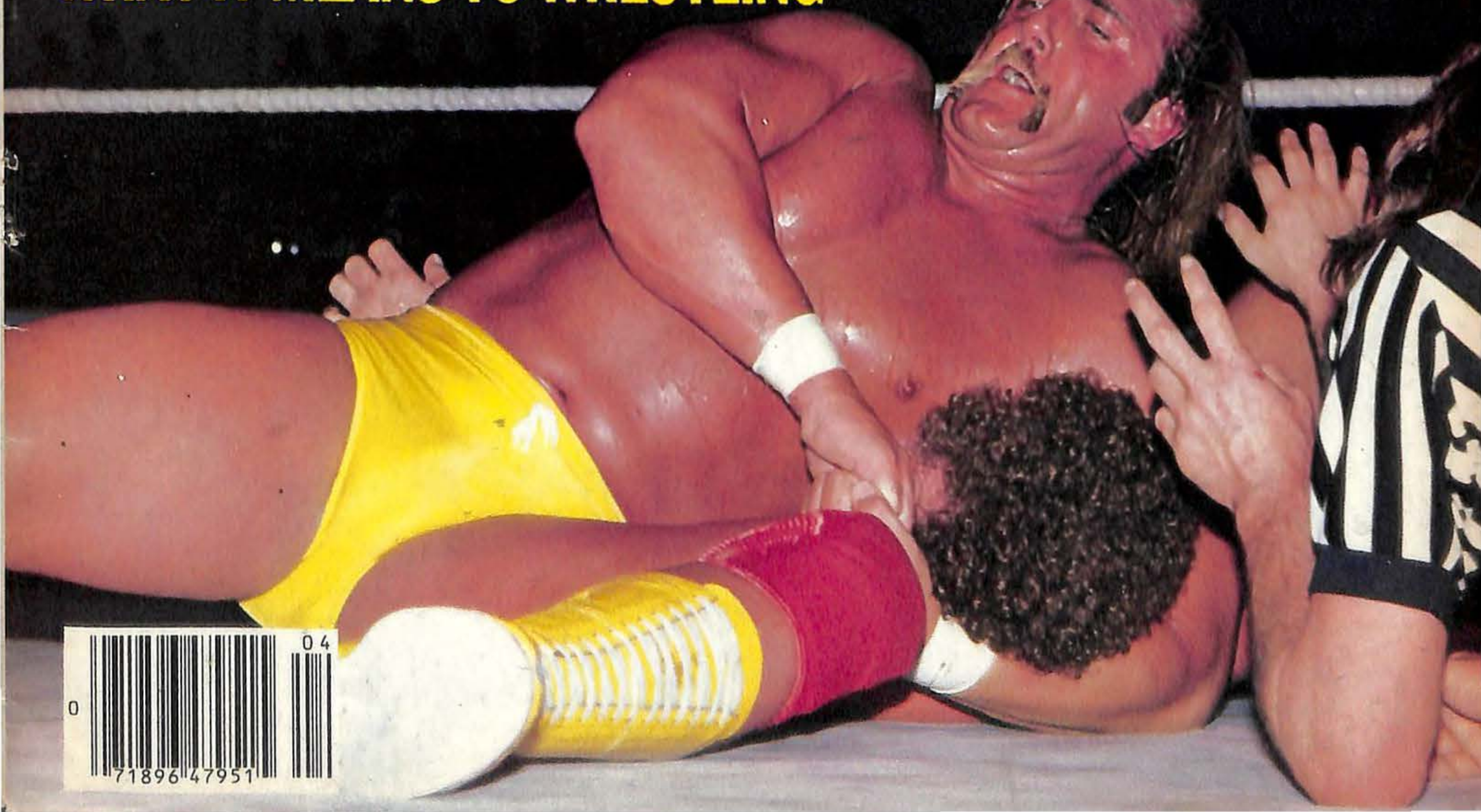

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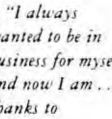

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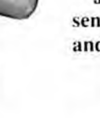

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RCA

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THE Wrestler

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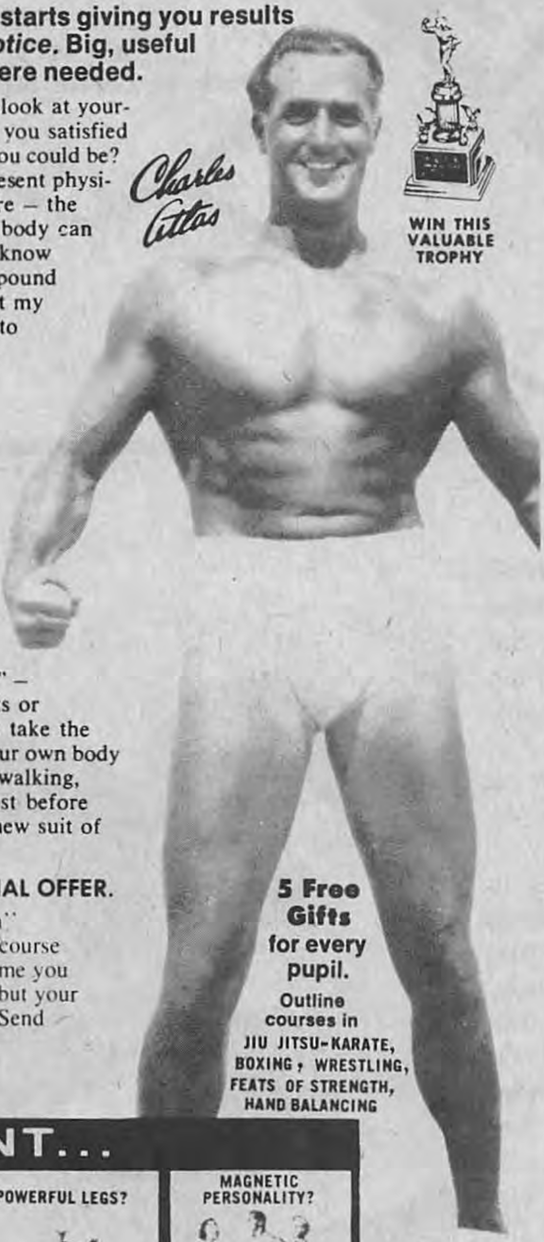
my method of DYNAMIC-TENSION starts giving you results you can *feel* and your friends will *notice*. Big, useful muscles. Gain pounds in weight where needed. Lose "pot belly." Take a good honest look at yourself! Are you proud of your body – or are you satisfied to go through life being just "half the man" you could be? No matter how ashamed you are of your present physical condition – or how old or young you are – the "sleeping" muscles already present in your body can turn you into a REAL man! Believe me, I know – because I was once a skinny, scrawny 97-pound half-alive weakling! People used to laugh at my build and make fun of me. I was ashamed to strip for sports or the beach . . . shy of girls . . . afraid of healthy competition.



Charles Atlas

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WWF DISASTER

Disaster has struck the WWF. Through some inexplicable fluke of nature, Lou Albano's wild Samoans have lost the WWF tag team championship to Rocky Johnson and Tony Atlas, a pair of musclebound clowns pulled off the street and into the ring by Albano's enemies.

I call upon The Samoans to come back, demand a rematch, and annihilate Johnson and Atlas! It's embarrassing to watch Rocky struggle through interviews with his limited vocabulary. It's boring to see Tony's one wrestling move every week. Besides, they are ugly.

Recent studies confirm that careless overdevelopment of the muscles can restrict the blood flow to the brain, causing permanent damage.

Samoans, only you can get these disoriented degenerates out of the ring and into therapy where they belong!

DONALD S. LORD
Middletown, CT

Can Lou Albano and The Samoans regain the WWF tag team belts from Rocky Johnson and Tony Atlas? Donald S. Lord, one of the few fans who does not like the new champions, hopes they can.

WRESTLING II AFRAID?

I would like to tell the wrestling fans something about Mr. Wrestling II. We have been fooled by him.

In a televised interview for Mid-South wrestling, Wrestling II said that Lanny Poffo could not be trusted because he came from a very bad family background, that his father, Angelo Poffo, had been one of the most hated wrestlers ever, and that Lanny's brother Randy Savage has followed in his father's footsteps.

Lanny Poffo has been a big fan

(Continued on page 56)

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By BILL APTER

WHAT'S HAPPENING!

Fred Blassie's dream of managing a WWF heavyweight champion finally became reality when, on December 26, **The Iron Sheik** defeated **Bob Backlund** for the title at the 11:50 mark of a match held in New York's Madison Square Garden.

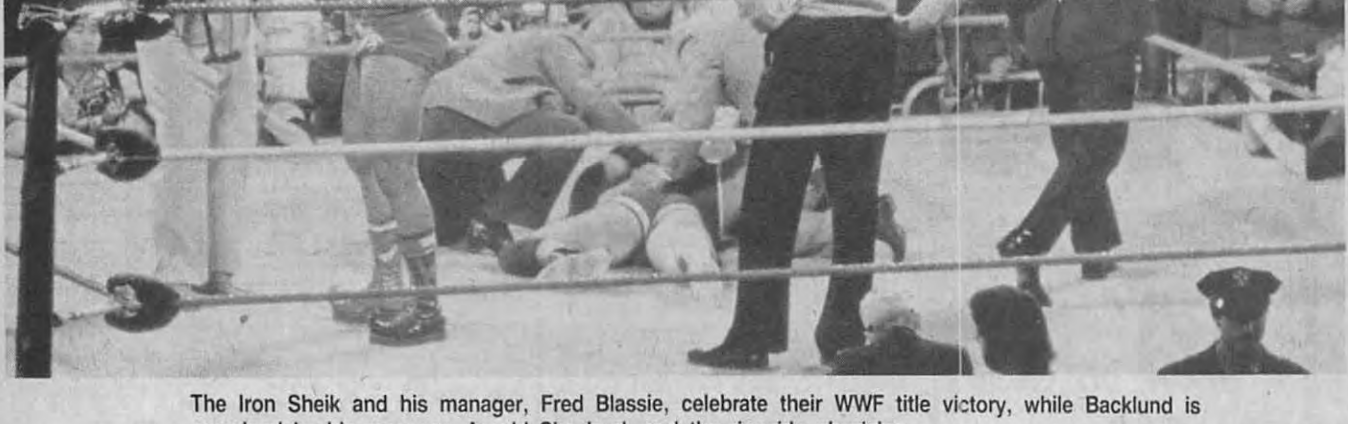
Several days prior to that match, during a televised installment of WWF wrestling, The Iron Sheik issued an open challenge for anyone to perform his exercise regimen with his Iranian clubs. Backlund answered the challenge, failing on his first two attempts to swing the heavily weighted clubs over his head.

On the third attempt, however, Backlund successfully brought the clubs over his head, swinging them in the air in a successful answer to Iron Sheik's challenge. Angered, Sheik attacked Backlund and the heavy clubs fell on Backlund's back. Sheik followed up his attack by striking Backlund in the arms, back, and neck with one of the clubs.

Backlund's manager, Arnold Skoaland, considered postponing the Madison Square Garden title match due to the injuries, but the champion insisted on wrestling.

"Arnold told me to watch out for the camel clutch," Backlund said following the match, "and I managed to avoid it for some

(Continued on page 50)



The Iron Sheik and his manager, Fred Blassie, celebrate their WWF title victory, while Backlund is examined by his manager, Arnold Skoaland, and the ringside physician.

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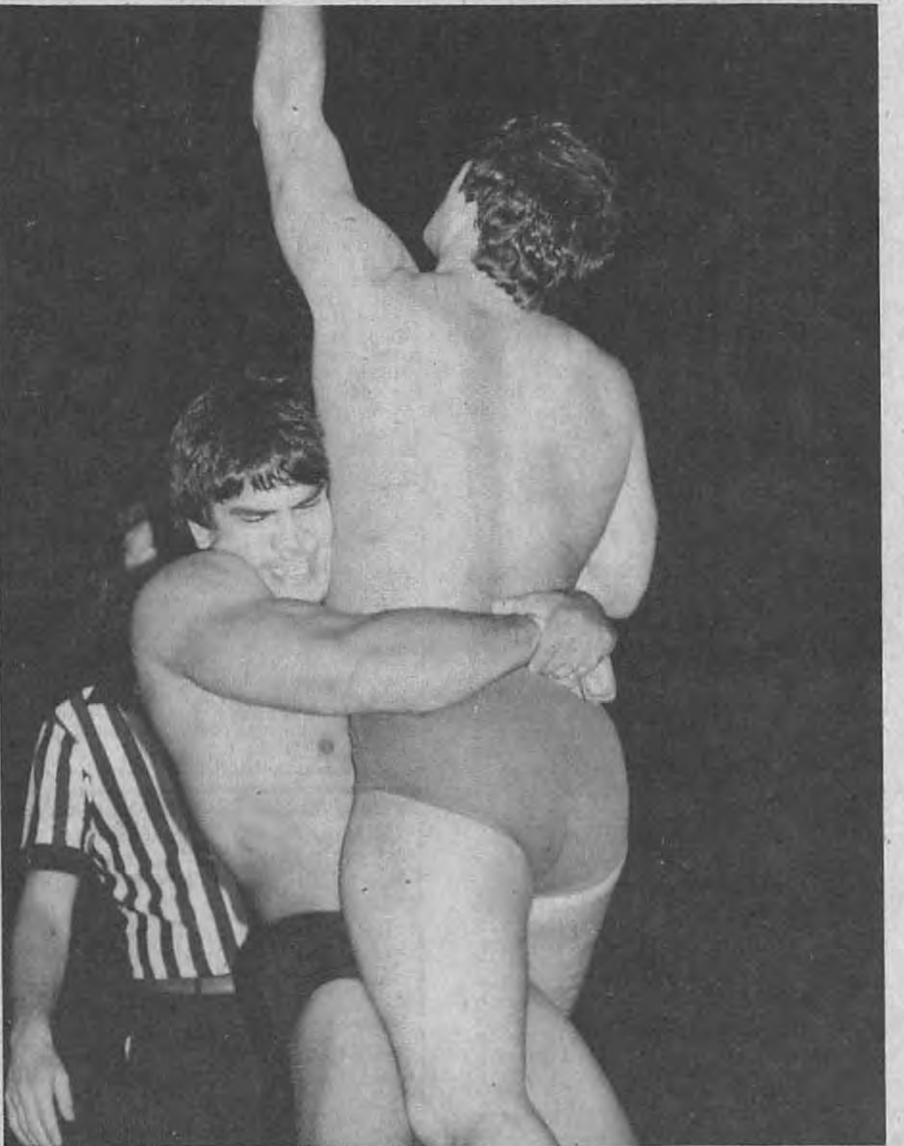
CORRESPONDENTS Reports

If you would like your area of the country represented in these reports, while also being officially credited with your own by-line, send us reports of the matches you attend. You will have the thrill of seeing your name in an internationally known magazine while at the same time helping to improve the quality of wrestling in your area. So why not give it a try? You will be glad you did! Send your reports to: CORRESPONDENT EDITOR, BOX 48, ROCKVILLE CENTRE, NY 11571.



Rick Steamboat applies a rib-crushing bearhug against Jerry Brisco during an NWA tag team championship rematch. Steamboat and Jay Youngblood retained their titles against the Briscos after a wild brawl.

ASHEVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA ***(Correspondent:*** **Brenda Medford)**—The newly crowned NWA World tag team champions, Rick Steamboat and Jay Youngblood, battled the former champs, archrivals Jack and Jerry Brisco.

The match was out of control from the beginning as all four men began brawling in the ring. The Briscos threw the champions through the ropes and followed them out. Jack Brisco pushed Steamboat into a ringside table, while Jerry Brisco punched and kicked Youngblood. The champions managed to crawl back into the ring but were thrown out once again. Jack rammed Steamboat's head into the steel ringpost. Jerry dragged Youngblood under the ring and choked him on a wooden ring support.

The referee finally restored order, and Jerry and Youngblood squared off in the center of the ring. Youngblood caught his opponent off-guard with a vicious tomahawk chop. Jerry tagged off to Jack, who also ran into one of Youngblood's brutal thrusts.

Youngblood whipped Jack into the ropes, tagged Steamboat, and the two double-clotheslined their dazed opponent. Steamboat then climbed to the top turnbuckle and captured the match with a flying bodypress.

In other bouts, Angelo Mosca defeated Don Kernodle by disqualification . . . Cowboy Bob Orton beat Johnny Weaver . . . Dick Slater defeated Rufus R. Jones . . . The Assassins defeated Mark Youngblood and Jimmy Valiant . . . Gene Anderson defeated Thon Benello . . . Rick McCord beat Golden Boy Gray.

BRAINERD, MINNESOTA ***(Correspondent:*** **Tony Maras)**—The feature attraction was a confrontation between former Bobby Heenan stablemates Baron Von Raschke and Superstar Billy

(Continued on page 54)

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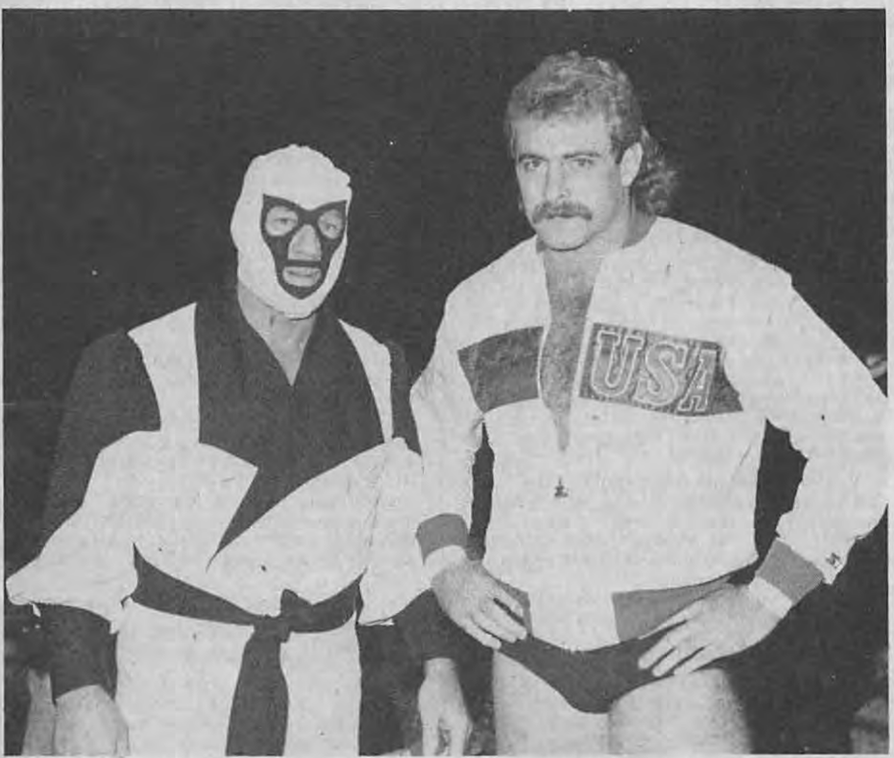
YOU ASKED US

Here's the monthly feature which YOU get to write! It's your chance to have a top wrestler answer YOUR question! Only the best questions will be answered—so put on your thinking caps and come up with some good ones! Address your questions—and who you would like to have answer them—to: YOU ASKED US, c/o THE WRESTLER, PO BOX 48, Rockville Centre, N.Y. 11571. Questions will be answered only in this column and at our discretion!



Mr. Wrestling II, who spends large amounts of his time working with young wrestlers, finds it difficult to compare two of his students, Terry "Magnum T.A." Allen (above) and Brett Sawyer.

Q: "I have a question for Michael Hayes: What are you doing now that you lost a Loser Leave Town Cage Match to Kerry Von Erich and you can't wrestle in Texas anymore?"—Hilda Ingram, Corpus Christi, TX

A: "Listen to me, Hilda," Hayes replied. "I don't need your obviously sarcastic remarks. I don't want any of your pity either. I'm doing just fine, and that's all you need to know. Do you think that the only wrestling rings are in Texas? Hell no. There's a whole country full of wimps out there just waiting for me to show them the meaning of Freebird Fantasia."

Q: "I'd like to ask Rocky Johnson and Tony Atlas if they'll give The Samoans a return match for the WWF tag team title, and if they do, will they try to ban Lou Albano from ringside?"—Harry Gilbert, Sunnyside, NY

A: "Why shouldn't we let Capt. Lou at ringside?" Johnson asked. "It seems like he does more harm than good for his team. You didn't see *us* slamming The Samoans with a chair." Said Atlas, "I want to give them a return match, just to show them that we are absolutely the best there is. We're champions, not just another lucky tag team."

Q: "How does Mr. Wrestling II rate Terry "Magnum T.A." Allen in comparison with the last young wrestler with whom he worked, Brett Sawyer?"—Jamie Gregoran, New Orleans

A: "You can't compare wrestlers like Terry and Brett," Wrestling II said. "With Brett, you have a bundle of energy and a fountain of courage, and the job there was to blend those two factors together with a couple of extra ingredients, conditioning and strategy, and come up with the right combination, the winning combination. Terry is an extremely skilled technical wrestler. With him, my goal is to make him perfect. That takes a lot of hours in the gym with sparring partners, and also some additional conditioning, for speed and endurance. Terry and Brett are like apples and oranges, but they're both very good students."

(Continued on page 62)

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SUPERSET-II

Sgt. Slaughter ... Killer Brooks ... Ernie Ladd ... Tony Atlas ... Mr. Wrestling II.. Rocky Johnson ... Junkyard Dog ... Tiger Mask ... Kerry Von Erich ... El Santo Negro ... Big John Studd ... Jesse Ventura ... King Lawler ... Barry Windham ... Larry Zbyszko ... Capt. Redneck ... Kevin Sullivan ... The Purple Haze ... Tony Garea ... Greg Gagne ... Turk ... Frank Dusek ... Adrian Street ... Jim Brunzell ... Dr. Red Fang ... Buzz Sawyer ... Iron Mike Sharpe ... Bob Armstrong ... Ivan Koloff ... Greg Valentine ... Don Kernodle ... King Kong Mosca ... Tully Blanchard ... Adrian Adonis ... and Kamata the Ugandan Giant!!!

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Thumbs Up

Each issue, *The Wrestler* will praise the noteworthy and damn those who violate the honor of wrestling. The praiseworthy receive a Thumbs Up, the disgraceful are marked with a Thumbs Down. Here is this month's roll of honor and shame.

THUMBS UP to Mike Rotondo: This dynamic young star has taken yet another step toward superstardom. In a recent tournament held in St. Petersburg, Florida, Rotondo defeated One Man Gang in a preliminary round and Greg Valentine in the final round to capture the vacant Florida State championship. Not only is Rotondo one of the best young wrestlers in the sport today, he is one of the most exciting: His finishing maneuver, the airplane spin, is a crowd-pleaser . . . and a virtual ticket to triumph. We wish him luck in defending the Florida title.

THUMBS UP to Capt. Lou Albano: During a WWF tag team title match in which his Samoans were defending the belts against the team of Rocky Johnson and Tony Atlas, Albano stepped into the ring and attempted to smash Atlas in the head with a chair while he was being held by Samoan Afa. Atlas ducked and the chair hit Afa in the head. It was then an easy matter for Atlas to score the pin. Albano's "thumbs up" is not a result of this incident, but rather his admission of guilt at having cost his team the championship belts. We may disagree with his wrestling philosophies, but we admire his willingness to take responsibility for his actions.

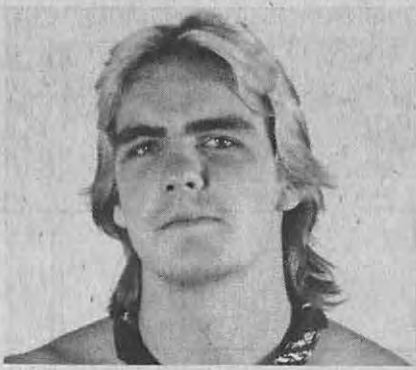
THUMBS UP to Jimmy Valiant: The "Boogie Woogie Man" recently offered to take Robert Gibson's place in tag team competition with Gibson's partner Rick Morton. Gibson suffered a concussion at the hands of Jimmy Hart and the "A-Team," the tag team formerly known as The Assassins. Now Valiant and Morton are out to avenge the injury. We admire Valiant's willingness to step into the middle of a situation such as this and take up the battle for a man who was unjustifiably injured. With all of Valiant's problems in the Mid-Atlantic area, it would have been very easy for him to turn his back on Morton and Gibson.

THUMBS UP to Nick Bockwinkel: It would be very easy for Nick Bockwinkel to sit back and listen to the challenges of Jerry Lawler and laugh. Bockwinkel has defended his AWA World title against Lawler several times in the past, and realistically there is no reason for him to do so again. But Bockwinkel has signed a contract to defend his belt against the self-proclaimed "King of Wrestling" in Lawler's home town of Memphis, Tennessee. We admire Bockwinkel's willingness to defend the AWA title in this fashion.

Thumbs Down

THUMBS DOWN to Mr. Wrestling II: Last month this column offered a "Thumbs Up" to Mr. Wrestling II, but events since then have forced us to reconsider our position. Wrestling II is currently coaching Magnum T.A., but when Magnum wanted to wrestle in tag team competition with the popular Lanny Poffo, Wrestling II advised against it. He did so on the grounds that Poffo's father was, and his brother is, hated throughout the wrestling world for their rulebreaking styles. Poffo should be judged on his own merits, not on the actions of his family. In this case, Wrestling II's advice was misguided.

THUMBS DOWN to James J. Dillon: For months Dillon has claimed that he has been managing Ron Bass exclusively. But then Gentleman Jim Holliday arrived in the Florida area, and it was rumored that Holliday was being bankrolled by Dillon. Now it has become apparent that Dillon is advising, if not actually managing, Kendo Nagasaki and One Man Gang. Dillon's actions should match his claims. If he says he is managing Bass exclusively, that's what he should do. If he's advising Kendo and OMG, he should say so publicly. Any other course of action undermines his credibility.



THUMBS DOWN to Barry Windham: We offer this "thumbs down" with a qualification. While we cannot be 100 percent certain, all evidence points to the conclusion that beneath the mask of The Dirty Yellow Dog lies the face of Barry Windham. If this is true, Barry is failing to face up to his own defeats. We understand his recent embarrassment at the hands of Ron Bass, but we would also hope that Barry would have enough self-confidence and strength of character to come back and prove to Bass that he can rise above the embarrassment. It would be sad indeed if Barry felt the need to hide behind a mask as the result of his recent humiliation.

THUMBS DOWN to Dick Slater: A recent match for the U.S. heavyweight title proves exactly how unscrupulous Dick Slater really is. U.S. heavyweight champion Greg Valentine was supposed to wrestle Roddy Piper, who was unable to appear that evening. As Mid-Atlantic champion, Slater demanded the title match. Valentine originally refused, but officials pressured him into the match. Slater's friend Cowboy Bob Orton came onto the ring apron and distracted Valentine while Slater snuck up behind him, suplexed him, and pinned him for the belt. Since it it was a No-Disqualification Match, Orton's interference did not help Valentine save his belt. This manner in which Slater won the title is reprehensible. □

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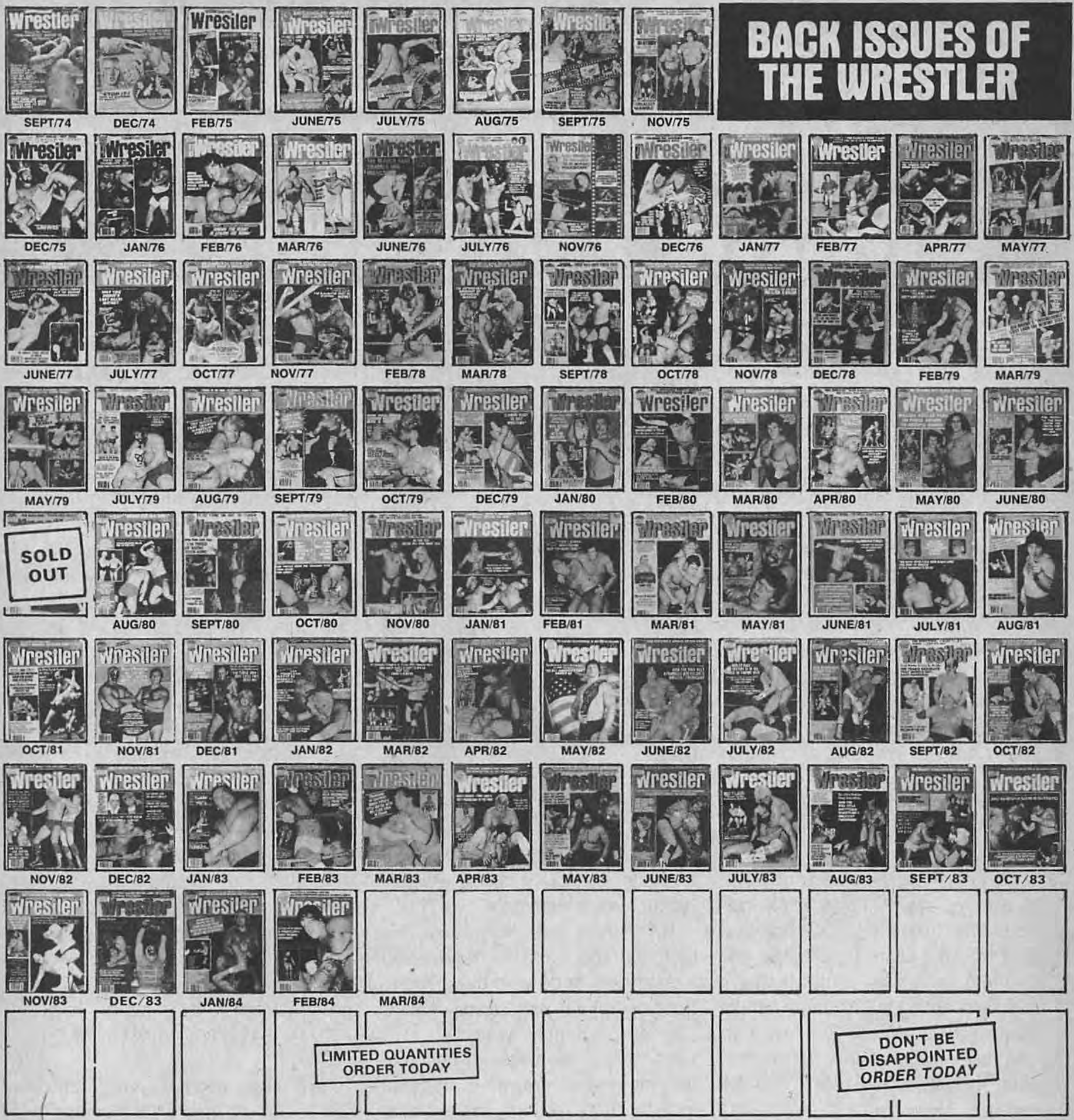

THE WRESTLER

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INTRODUCING MIKE VON ERICH

SO, WHO'S UP for an eight-man tag team match?

Mike Von Erich certainly is. "That would be great," he said. "Kevin, David, Kerry, and me against The Freebirds and Jim Garvin. That sounds like a great match. I think I'm gonna have to work up to that, though."

Mike may be only 19, but he has a firm grasp on where his abilities lie. The youngest of the wrestling Von Erichs knows that his name alone doesn't make him a great wrestler. "Experience makes you a great wrestler," he said. "That's what they keep saying to me. I have to get a lot of matches under my belt before I can even think about the big matches. I have to wrestle all different types of wrestlers, too.

"I know that as I keep doing it, it will get easier. I was really nervous the first time out, but Dad told me that every time I step into the ring, it will be a little easier."

Mike wanted to turn pro when he turned 18, on March 2 of last year, the day he was eligible for a wrestling license. "Dad said I was too small," Mike said. At 6'2" and 185 pounds, he was hardly small by regular standards, but he needed to add muscle mass to his body to take the tremendous

amounts of abuse a professional wrestler must withstand.

His father, Fritz Von Erich, his brothers, and even his mother had a great deal to do with the preparation for Mike's professional debut. "It was a family project," Fritz said. "I had everyone in motion. I had his mother preparing a special diet for him, a high protein diet that went with the exercise program I planned for him. The other boys helped him through his workouts."

Half a year of training in the gym and at the dinner table added 35 pounds of muscle to Mike's lanky frame. "I'm in the best shape of my life," he said. "I'm glad Dad didn't let me get into the ring before I got in shape. I never realized how important it was. Well, I guess we all learn something from our fathers."

Mike said the first lesson he learned from his father was that wrestling was a dangerous sport. "He was very good at hiding his injuries when I was little," he said. "He didn't want us to worry, I figure. But the first time he took me to one of his matches, I found out how dangerous wrestling really was."

Fritz Von Erich was battling Johnny Valentine in Fort Worth, Texas, and Mrs. Von Erich took Mike, then four years old, to watch his father wrestle. Mike sat with his mother and watched Valentine and his father brawl for what he says seemed like hours. At the end of the match, Fritz came back bruised, sore, and missing some teeth.

"We laugh about it now," Fritz said, "but at the time it wasn't that funny. I remember that Mike was horrified. I never let on at home if I was hurt in a match.

(Continued on page 20)

Another member of the professional wrestling's premier family has made his debut. Nineteen-year-old Mike Von Erich is the fourth of Fritz's sons to enter the pro ranks. His name alone is enough to guarantee stardom, but with his talent and determination, and the help of his brothers, he may go farther than all of them

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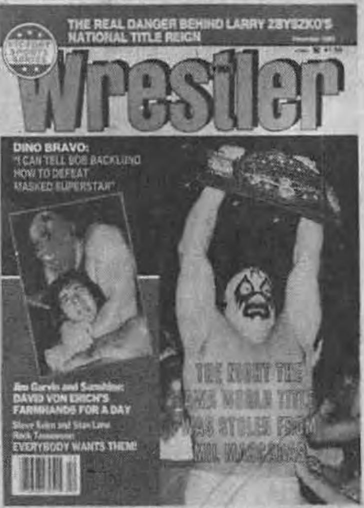

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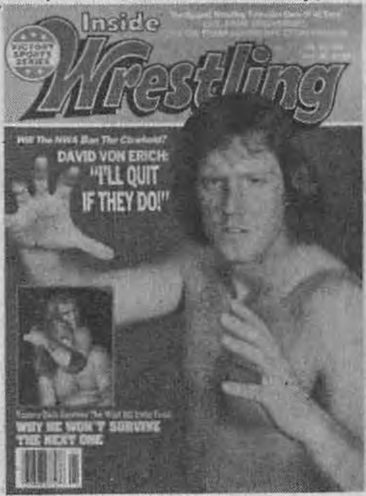

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MIKE VON ERICH

(Continued from page 18)

Von Erich adroitly sends Akbar to the mat with a backdrop (left). Mike wisely drags Akbar to ring center (above left) where the general cannot use the ropes as a means of escape from a cradle attempt (above right). Bill Mercer interviews the Von Erich brothers, from left to right, Kerry, David, Mike, and Kevin (below).

Actually, he had seen me in much worse shape. I guess he just never realized it."

"I made my mother write a letter to Valentine," Mike recalled. "I told her to write that I hated him, and that my Dad would get him back for what he did. And then I signed it."

The lessons Mike learned after that were in amateur competition. He wrestled on the Denton, Texas, YMCA team, starting at age six in the 75-pound weight class. Kerry, who is four years older, was a teammate. They were both very successful, winning several regional amateur championships.

Mike left the team when he was 15 and began sparring with his older brothers. "Kerry beat the hell out of me," he said. "All three of them were a lot bigger than me. David and Kevin were already pros, so they took it easy on me. I learned a lot, though."

That learning came in handy in Mike's debut match, against manager-wrestler Gen. Skandor Akbar. With prematch coaching from his brothers, Mike stepped into the ring against Akbar on Thanksgiving night at Dallas' Reunion Arena. Not only was it his first pro match, but also his first grudge match.

Watching a match between brother David and Kamala, the Ugandan Giant, a few weeks earlier, Mike saw manager Akbar hand Kamala an illegal weapon to use against David. Mike and brother Kevin charged the ring with Johnny Mantell and Iceman Parsons, but the three others wouldn't let Mike get involved in the action. During the melee, Akbar swatted Mike with his riding crop, setting up the grudge battle between the two.

Mike didn't disappoint his brothers, rallying to victory in front of a turnaway crowd of 22,000 fans. "It was the most incredible feeling to have all those people cheering for me," he said. "I just stood there at first. I was stunned. I couldn't believe the applause was for me. One dose of that and you want to hear it for the rest of your life."

Undoubtedly, Mike Von Erich will be hearing and enjoying the cheers of wrestling fans around the world for a long time to come. □

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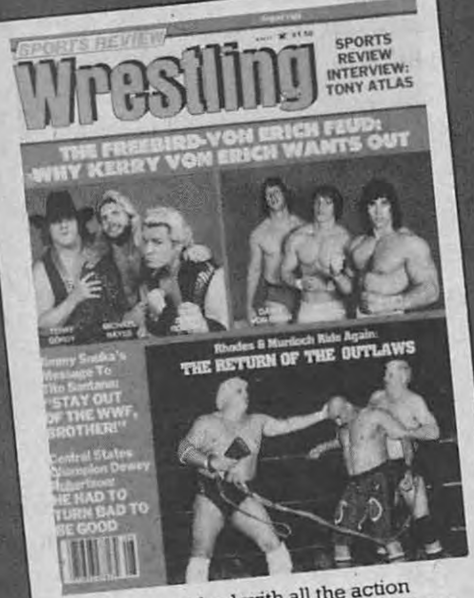

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Q&A

Each month, *The Wrestler* will present a "Question and Answer" forum with an important figure in the wrestling world. It is your chance to meet wrestling's biggest stars as they answer the questions uppermost in the fans' minds

Q: You've been doing a little traveling lately.

A: You bet I have. I've been from the Rockies to the Everglades. From the frozen tundra to the equator. Well, not really. I've been to Georgia, though. Really, I have.

Q: You've been known to . . . well, let's say you have a unique personality. Do you think the Georgia fans understand who Bugsy McGraw is?

A: They know that Bugsy McGraw is fun. I have a good time out there. I like running through the crowd shaking hands, kissing babies, just giving the fans an opportunity to get to know me. Having Gordon Solie there helps a lot, too. Gordo and I . . .

Q: Gordo?

A: Yeah, that's what I call him. Gordo and I go way back to when I was wrestling in Florida.

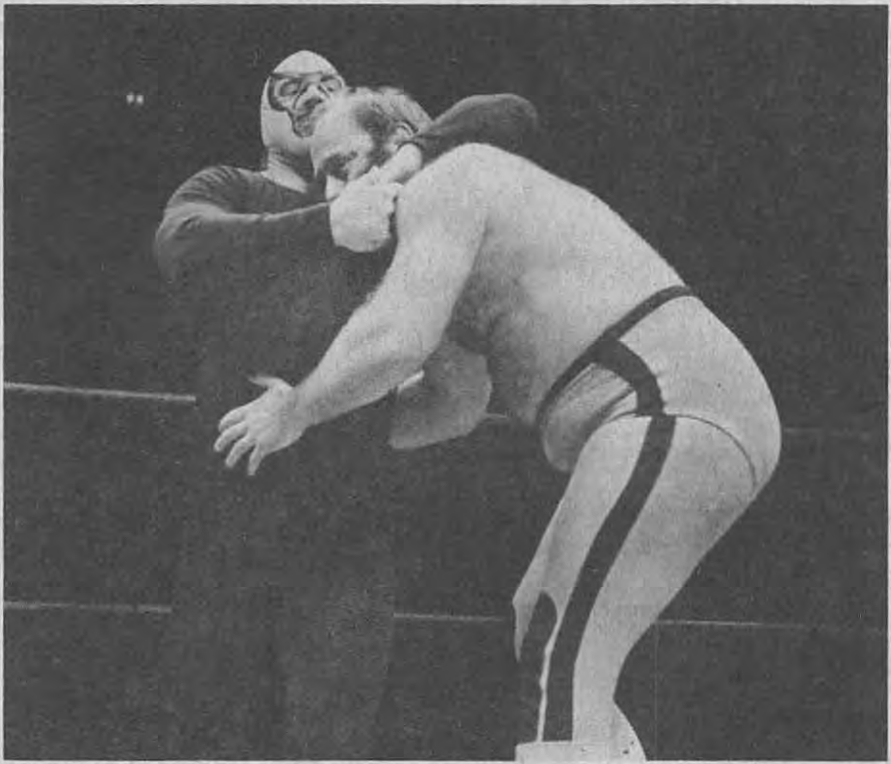
Q: During an interview a few weeks ago, you kissed "Gordo" on the forehead. Not many wrestlers would even think about doing something like that.

A: Hey, if I like someone, I show it. There's nothing wrong with it.

Q: Let's go on to another subject. You're involved, and not by your own doing, in a feud with

BUGSY McGRAW

BUGSY McGRAW IS unpredictable, off-the-wall, generous, and a free spirit. As crazy as some say he is, however, those who listen closely to what McGraw has to say find that he can be quite profound. The popular star is currently wrestling in both the Georgia and Mid-Atlantic regions, and he is embroiled in feuds with two different tag teams, The Assassins in the Carolinas, and The Road Warriors in Georgia. While discussing these feuds with Assistant Editor Joseph Bua, McGraw offered his unique perspectives on life and living.



Bugsy McGraw shows Assassin I his versatility as both a wrestler (above) and a boxer (opposite page). Bugsy is currently feuding with The Assassins in the Mid-Atlantic and The Road Warriors in Georgia.

The Road Warriors in Georgia. You're also feuding with Paul Jones' team of The Assassins in the Mid-Atlantic. How did you get involved in these feuds?

A: **Uh . . . I don't understand. These Road Warriors are nuts. People call me crazy. If I'm nuts, then what are The Road Warriors? You know, I'm really going bald. These guys shaved their heads, but only half. And it wasn't even the right or the left side. They shaved stripes down their heads. And they call me crazy. *Sheesh!* Then they attack me during my match on television, both of them and their manager, too, three on one. Now, is that fair? No. I wasn't too pleased by that.**

Q: You've been fighting these battles with a number of different partners. Don't you think you would do better with one permanent partner, or maybe one for the Mid-Atlantic and one for the Georgia area?

A: **I don't think the Warriors or The Assassins are very big into strategy. Maybe they use as much as I use when I play checkers. Sometimes, I just move the checkers around to make pretty patterns.**

Q: What is the origin of your feud with The Assassins?

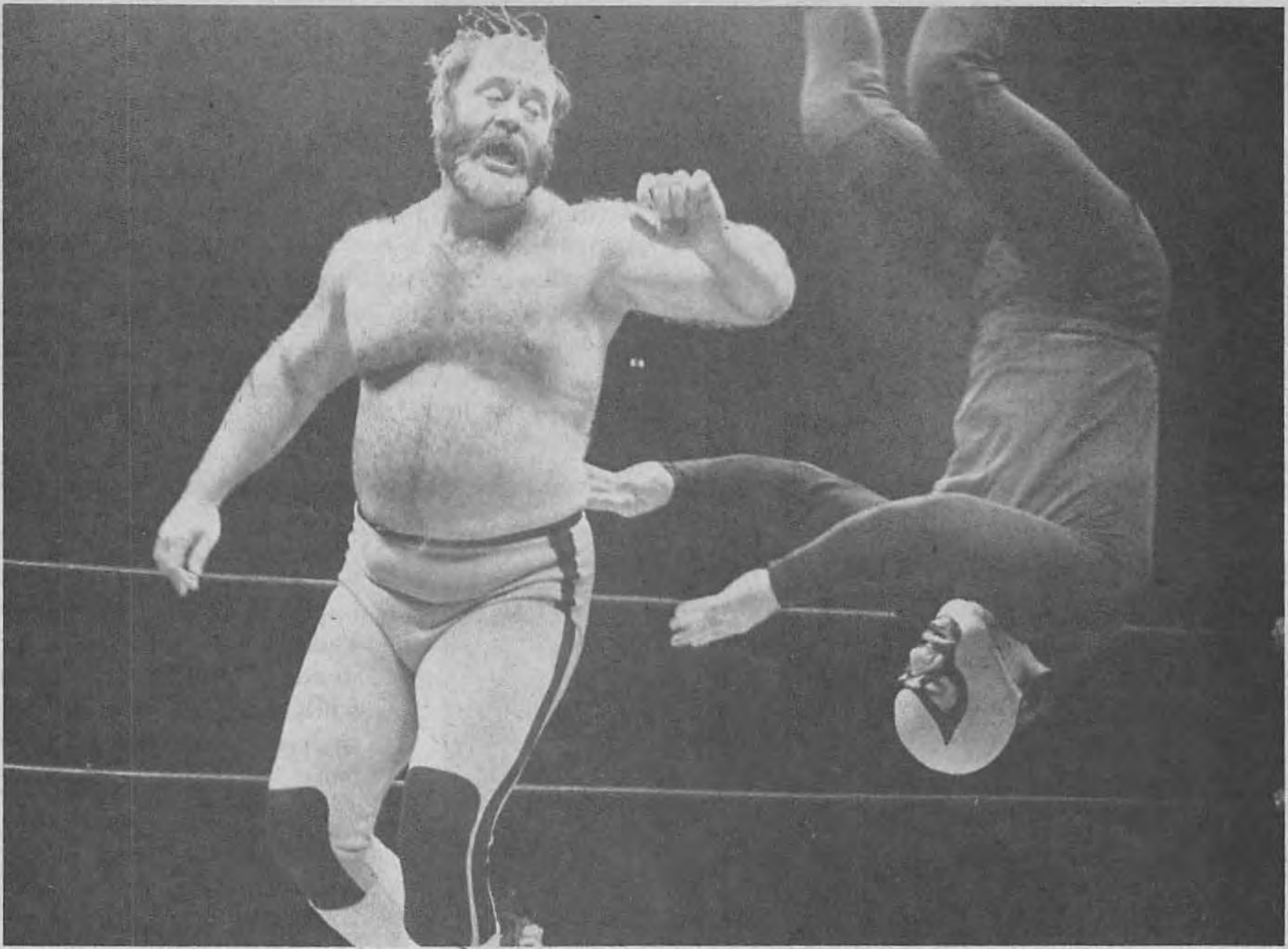
A: **No one likes The Assassins or Paul Jones. The fans don't, the ring announcers don't, the guys who put up the ring don't. They're just very unlikable guys. Why should I like them?**

Q: You mean you just don't like them because they're what the fans call "the bad guys."

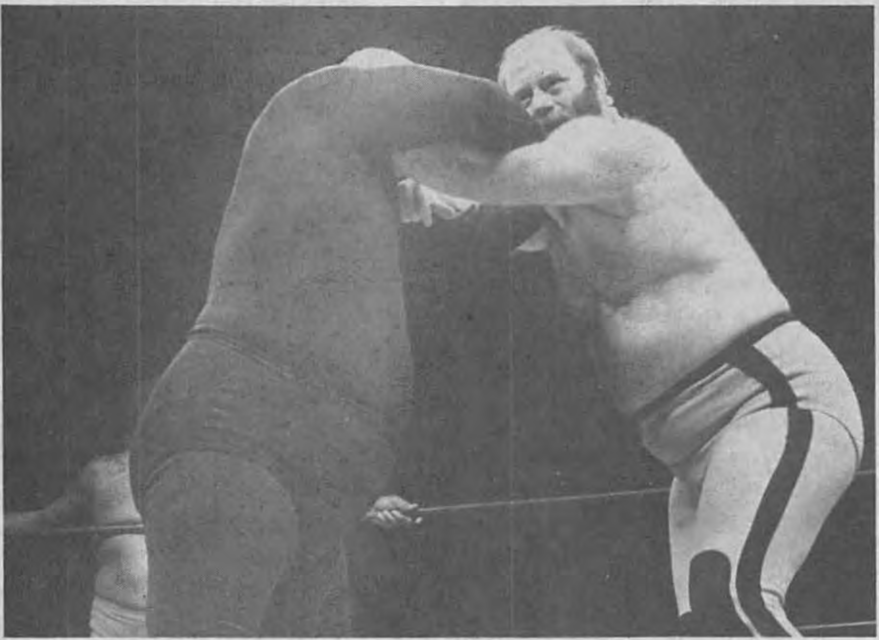
A: **Yeah, I guess so. They *are* the bad guys. Gee, I feel like the local sheriff now. Fighting for justice, I like that. Maybe someone will give me a big cowboy hat and a silver star. *Then ah could use mah Taxas accent, an' stroll through the streets o' downtown gunnin' fer black hats, yuh heah?***

Q: Not bad for a city boy. Did you go to college?

A: **The School of Hard Knocks. Ha ha ha, I just heard that one for the first time the other day. No, I never made it to college. I graduated from the streets to the wrestling ring. I did get my high school equivalency diploma though. I also took**



McGraw dumps Assassin II over his shoulder and down to the mat (above). Bugsy looks for the upper hand from the referee's position (below). Bugsy puts on his "glasses" to get a better look at the fans (opposite right).



roller skating lessons.

Q: If we could just get back to the issue at hand . . .

A: Don't the fans want to know about my ice fishing trip in Alaska? I caught a lot of ice!

Q: Why don't we talk about wrestling?

A: Well, we could talk about that, too. Ask me anything you want about wrestling.

Q: What's your career goal?

A: You mean, what titles do I want? How much money do I wanna make? When will I be satisfied?

Q: That's right.

A: Who knows? Those things change every day. Have you ever been at Baskin-Robbins? They have 31 different flavors. Sometimes when I'm in a Baskin-Robbins, I just can't decide what I want. It's the same thing in life, except there are a lot more than 31 choices. There are millions. Who knows? Tomorrow, I might not even be a wrestler. I might want to go into sportswriting. I might even want to work at a Baskin-Robbins. I like those striped shirts they wear.

Q: You've been wrestling a lot of tag team matches lately. Would you like to challenge for the NWA tag team title?

A: Uh, I don't know.

Q: How about singles titles. Do you have any aspirations toward Ric Flair's NWA World title?

A: Wrestle Ric Flair? He's my pal, my buddy. How could I do that?

Q: You would let friendship stand in the way of your winning the most prestigious title in professional wrestling?

A: Is that what I said?

Q: Well, not exactly, but you did say that you wouldn't wrestle Ric Flair.

A: Let me think about that and I'll get back to you.

Q: What do you say to people who say they don't understand you?

A: I tell them to listen more closely.

Q: Is there anything you want to say to the readers of *The Wrestler* ?

A: Why? Do you have them hidden behind that door?

Q: No, they'll be reading this interview in the magazine.

A: Well, I guess I could tell them to just have a good time with their lives, pursue a career that will make them happy, like I have, and don't roller skate on the linoleum in the kitchen. It scratches real easy. □

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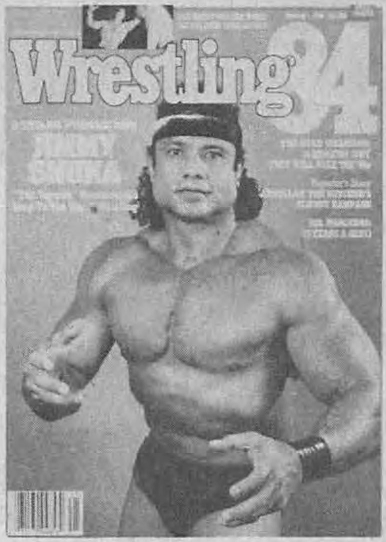

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THE WRESTLER PANEL EXAMINES

WAHOO McDANIEL

Each month THE WRESTLER'S panel of experts will offer their candid opinions of one of wrestling's stars. Whether an up-and- coming youngster or an established superstar in his own right, our panel will always be frank and honest without fear of reprisal

Though Wahoo McDaniel has been a pro wrestler for many years, most experts agree that he is still a prime contender for a world championship belt. In fact, some people feel that this former pro football linebacker has yet to reach his prime. One of Wahoo's best attributes is his patience: He hasn't won a world title yet, but he has the skill, and certainly the experience, to achieve his cherished goal. Time is still on his side.

BRUNO SAMMARTINO

"Not many of the guys who come from football to wrestling make out as well as he has. He was playing football for the New York Jets while I was wrestling in the Northeast, so when he started wrestling in the off-season, it was in the arenas where I was appearing. He was a natural athlete. How many people do you know who succeed in two careers in their lifetime? The man has accomplished a lot in his life."

Bruno Sammartino is known as wrestling's "Living Legend." He is considered the finest wrestler to ever hold the WWF title.

VERNE GAGNE

"Wahoo is a great athlete. I have been watching him wrestle for a long time. At first it was from the dressing room entrance, then it was from the ring apron in tag team matches. These days I watch him from ringside like everyone else, and he's still as good as he's ever been. I know that he's been around for a long time, but I have a feeling that Wahoo is on the brink of his biggest success ever."

Verne Gagne held the AWA World title a record 11 times. He was recently voted "Best Scientific Wrestler" of the last 25 years.

GENE KINISKI

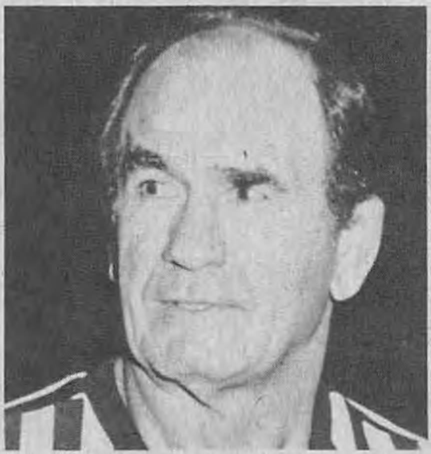
"You know, I figure if you've been around the sport as long as Wahoo McDaniel has, and you still haven't won yourself a world title, then maybe it's time to go on to something else. Maybe it's time for Wahoo to find something else to do. I hear he's a golfer. Maybe he'd do well on the pro tour. He could just putt around till he comes to his senses and decides to start enjoying his life. Retire, Wahoo, it's time."

Gene Kiniski is a rugged Canadian who was NWA World champion in the late 1960s.

BUDDY ROGERS

"It isn't because Wahoo McDaniel is a very good friend of mine that I say this, but he might be the greatest non-world champion of all time. He came from pro football, so he had the athletic ability and the discipline. He combined that with a great instinct for wrestling. Fortunately, McDaniel has a lot of time left in his career to win a world title. He'll get his shots, and, hopefully, one of those nights will be his night."

Buddy Rogers is the only man to hold the NWA World and WWF titles. He is currently a wrestling manager and a television commentator.



LOU THESZ

"I'll never forget how I met Wahoo. He came right up to me and asked about something I did in one of my matches. We started talking about the match, and wrestling, and I was thinking to myself, 'This guy really knows what he's talking about, but who is he?' I didn't recognize him without his football helmet on. He was smart, very smart. I knew that he'd be a great one. And look at Wahoo now. He *is* a great one, no doubt about it."

Lou Thesz held the NWA World title six times during his fabulous 50-year career. Many consider him the greatest all-round wrestler in history.

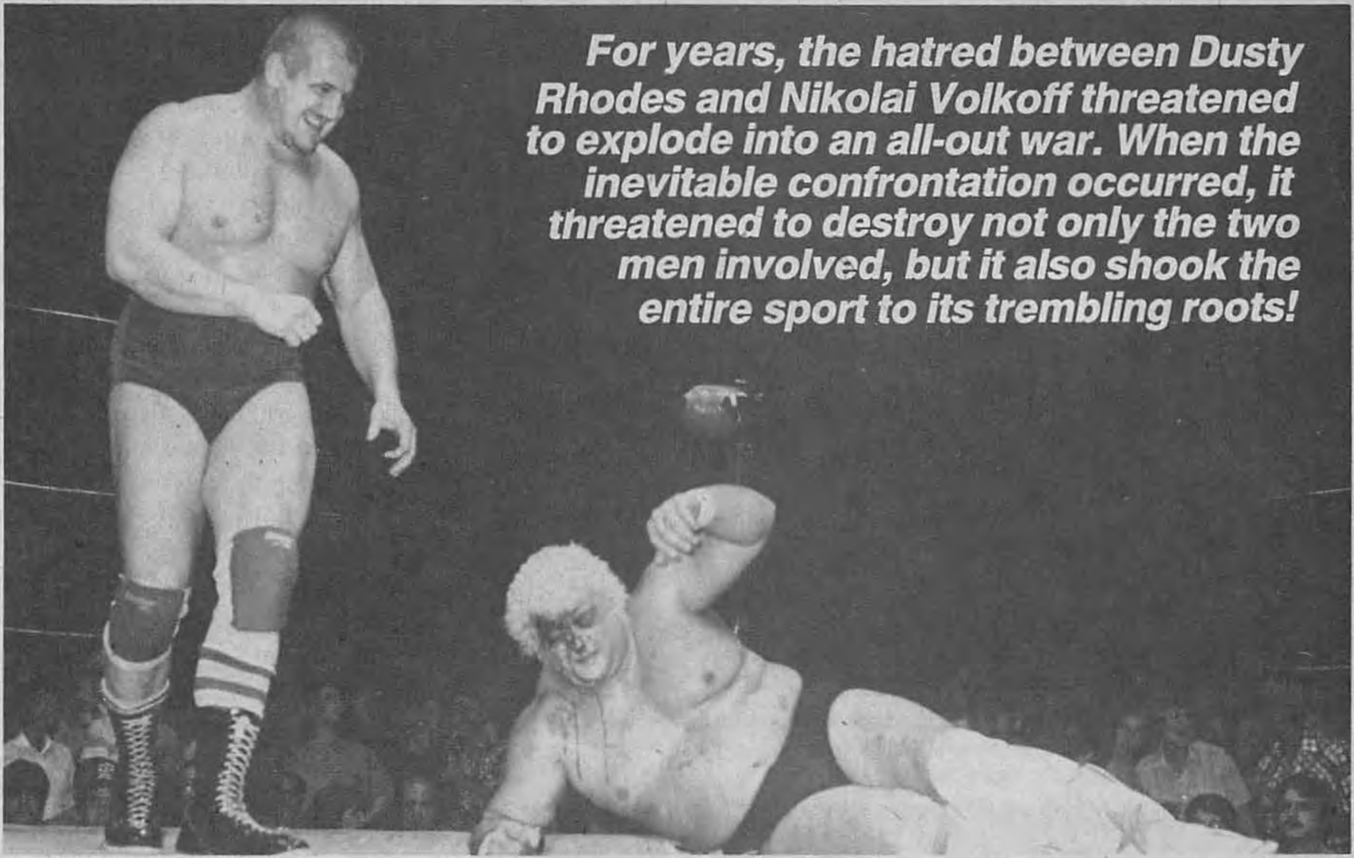
EDDIE GRAHAM

"What I like most about Wahoo is that he's willing to get involved in any way he can. He'll help a younger wrestler with the wealth of his experience, probably because he got so much help when he was just starting out. I'm sure that he is responsible for a number of young wrestlers who are enjoying a lot of success right now. One that comes to mind is Mike Rotondo. His success is a reflection of Wahoo's greatness."

Eddie Graham is a former co-holder of the World tag team title, and was a top contender for the NWA World title.

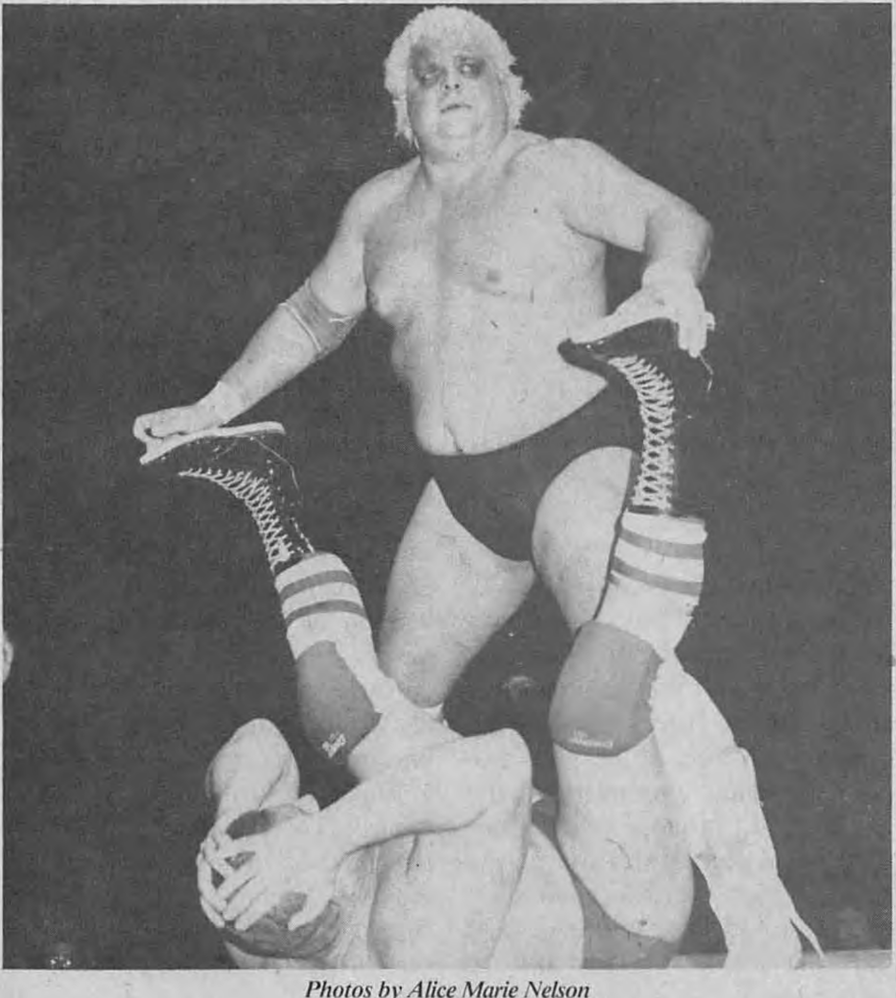
Rhodes vs. Volkoff

CAN WRESTLING SURVIVE THE DAY AFTER?



For years, the hatred between Dusty Rhodes and Nikolai Volkoff threatened to explode into an all-out war. When the inevitable confrontation occurred, it threatened to destroy not only the two men involved, but it also shook the entire sport to its trembling roots!

Rhodes draws a cry of pain from Volkoff by twisting his left arm and rubbing a forearm into his left shoulder (opposite left). Watching the blood ooze from Dusty's cuts, the Russian grins (above). A terrified Volkoff knows what his aggressor's next move will be (below).



Photos by Alice Marie Nelson

THE COMMISSIONER SAT behind his desk. On the television a videotape played for the fifth time that morning. And for fifth time that morning, the commissioner saw one of the most brutal exhibitions of wrestling savagery in the sport's history.

On the screen, Dusty Rhodes battled Nikolai Volkoff. The action was furiously out of control. Under no definition could you possibly call this athletic competition. By the conclusion, Dusty's face was a scarlet mask of blood. Volkoff could barely stand, his eyes unfocused as he stared blankly at something no one else could see. Everyone was lucky death somehow looked away that night.

The commissioner didn't have the luxury to look away. He knew this match demanded some disciplinary action. Most obviously, something had to be done because neither man stopped after the referee announced a double-disqualification. The pair didn't separate until the referee threatened each with a six-month suspension. For the third time.

The feud, which began in Florida in 1979, has been interrupted by a few years but has not lost any of its intensity. Dusty's powerful hands grasp Volkoff's neck muscles (above). Nikolai makes clever use of the ropes (below).

This anarchy could not be permitted to go unpunished. Something had to be done. At the same time, the commissioner had to be on solid ground no matter what the punishment. If his decision seemed unfair to people, Rhodes and/or Volkoff could appeal to the fans to force a change in the official decision. Also, it had to be a decision other wrestlers would respect. He couldn't make professional martyrs out of either Rhodes or Volkoff.

And then there was the problem of Rhodes' popularity. The fans love him, and the commissioner never argued that Rhodes has earned their love. If he were suspended, many promoters would lose a small fortune. Rhodes is one of the few people who can always assure brisk ticket sales. No sport can afford to have one of its top stars out for a long time. If the commissioner suspended Rhodes, every promoter in the country would hate his guts. Enough of an outcry and the commissioner could be on the unemployment line.

But the decision had to be fair to both Volkoff and Rhodes. Granted, Volkoff had wrestled in an abominable manner, but that didn't excuse Rhodes. Instead of giving the referee a chance to control the match, Rhodes matched Volkoff in cruel fury. It was Dusty who turned the match into a brawl by preventing the referee from controlling Volkoff.

The commissioner turned off the videotape recorder. He wished his problems could disappear so easily. He sat back in his chair, closed his eyes, and wished it would all go away.

Less than 24 hours later, he made his decision on how to handle the problem. He called a press conference, where he announced, "At separate times, Dusty Rhodes and Nikolai Volkoff will be summoned to my office. I can't say what their punishments will be, as each man will have a chance to defend himself. I can say at this moment that both men face fines and suspensions. All contracts they have for the next six months are invalid until I make my final decision."

After that, the commissioner refused to answer his phone.

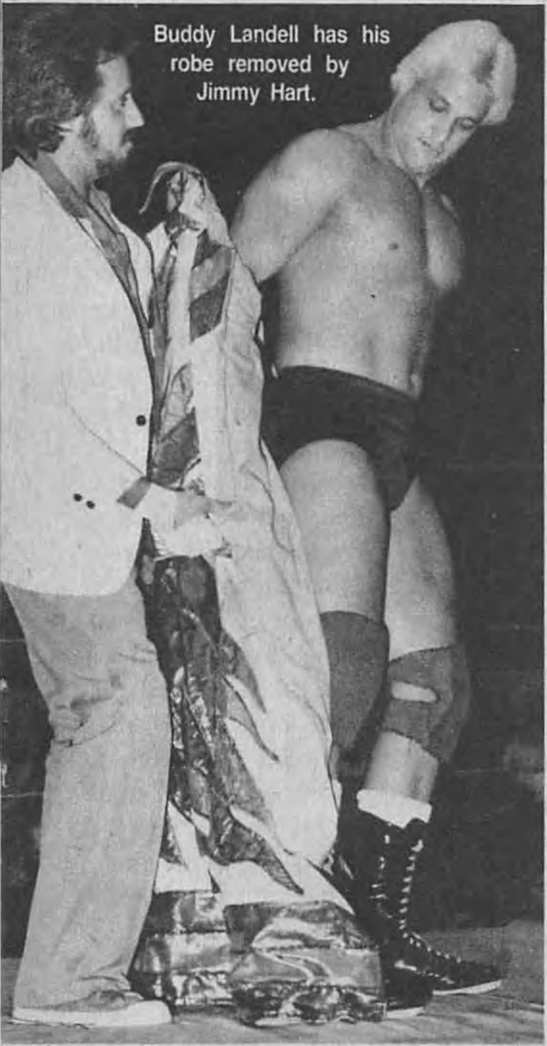
As intended, this move upset everyone who earns his living in wrestling. Every wrestler in the country heard about it. No one could call it a coincidence that during this period there were fewer disqualifications than ever before. Everybody was on his best behavior. Professionals expect men like Volkoff to be suspended. But if they were going to suspend Rhodes, then everyone was vulnerable.

Rhodes was the first one summoned. The outcome of the conference was eagerly awaited, although many feared its consequences. Rhodes walked into

(Continued on page 45)

THE VIOLENT ATTRACTION OF DEADLY OPPOSITES

The rugged Dutch Mantel is ready for a brawl.



Buddy Landell has his robe removed by Jimmy Hart.

THE CAN CRUMPLED as Dutch Mantel's hand wrapped around it. The veins on his neck bulged and his voice grew loud. Reporters involuntarily took a step back, their instincts for survival kicking into overdrive.

"The man is scum!" Mantel shouted. "I can't stand to look at him. Everything about him is repulsive. From his permanent-press hairstyle to his manager, Jimmy Hart, Buddy Landell makes a maggot gag. He's so filled with himself that he doesn't give a damn about wrestling. Guys like that always make me sick. It's a pleasure to get a chance to drive him out of wrestling. Everyone will be better off."

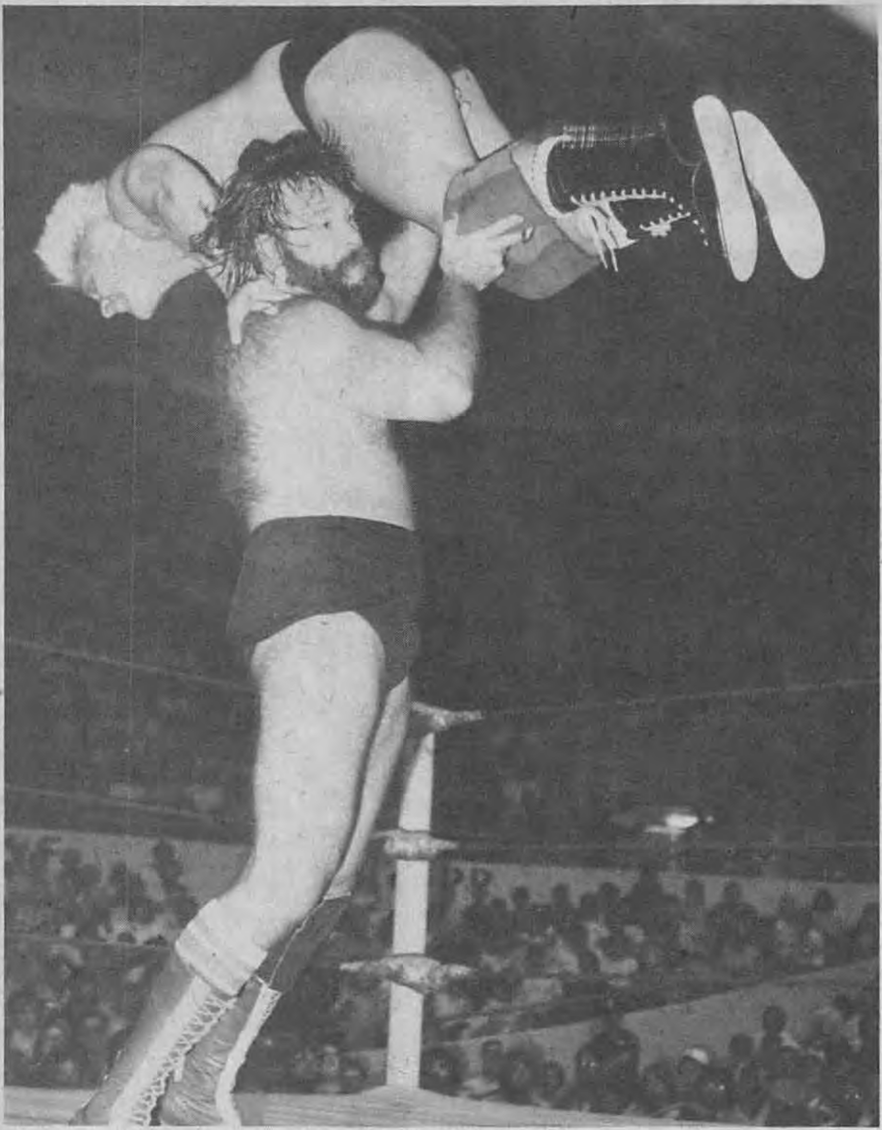
Mantel has often spoken like that of anyone connected with Jimmy Hart. But there is something about Landell that is especially galling. Dutch came up the hard way, slogging his way through wrestling's trenches. Every match was a war, every small gain a major accomplishment. His march to the top was measured in slow and painful steps. Along the way, he learned to resent anyone who had it easy.

Dutch also took the hard way by being a fan favorite. If he cheated, he could have risen much quicker through the ranks. But Dutch wanted to do it right. It was a noble exhibition of wrestling integrity.

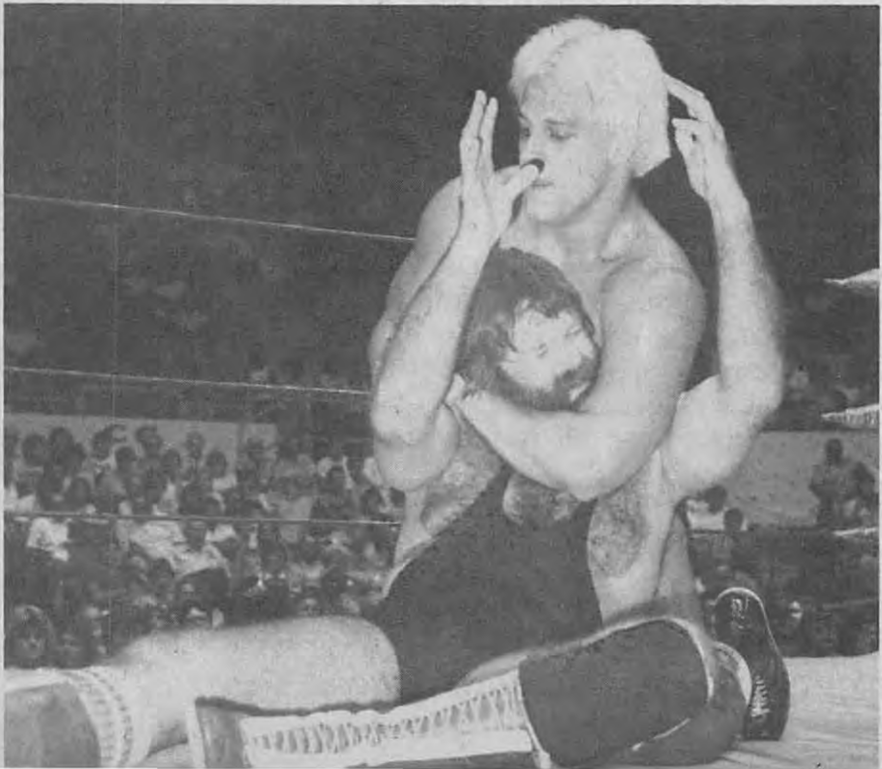
If one was looking for Dutch's direct opposite, the search would end with Buddy Landell. This

Photos by Sam Lowe & Scott Romer

Like the cobra and mongoose, Dutch Mantel and Buddy Landell were born to be enemies. The instinctive hatred they feel toward each other is a chemical bond ripe for explosion. Every time they enter the ring, the explosion can result in catastrophe



Mantel does not like Landell or anybody who fits that pretty-boy image. Dutch lifts Buddy into the air and will drop him on his back (above). Mantel reaches back for Landell's head, attempting to free himself from a headlock (below).



young blond man reeks of having it easy. One of those literal and figurative golden boys, Buddy had it easy all his life. Blessed with natural ability and consumed with selfishness, what little he couldn't earn he took. That's his philosophy of wrestling. Cheating when it suited him, he laughed at the rules while racking up victory after victory. He disdained men like Dutch Mantel, considering them worthless and beneath contempt.

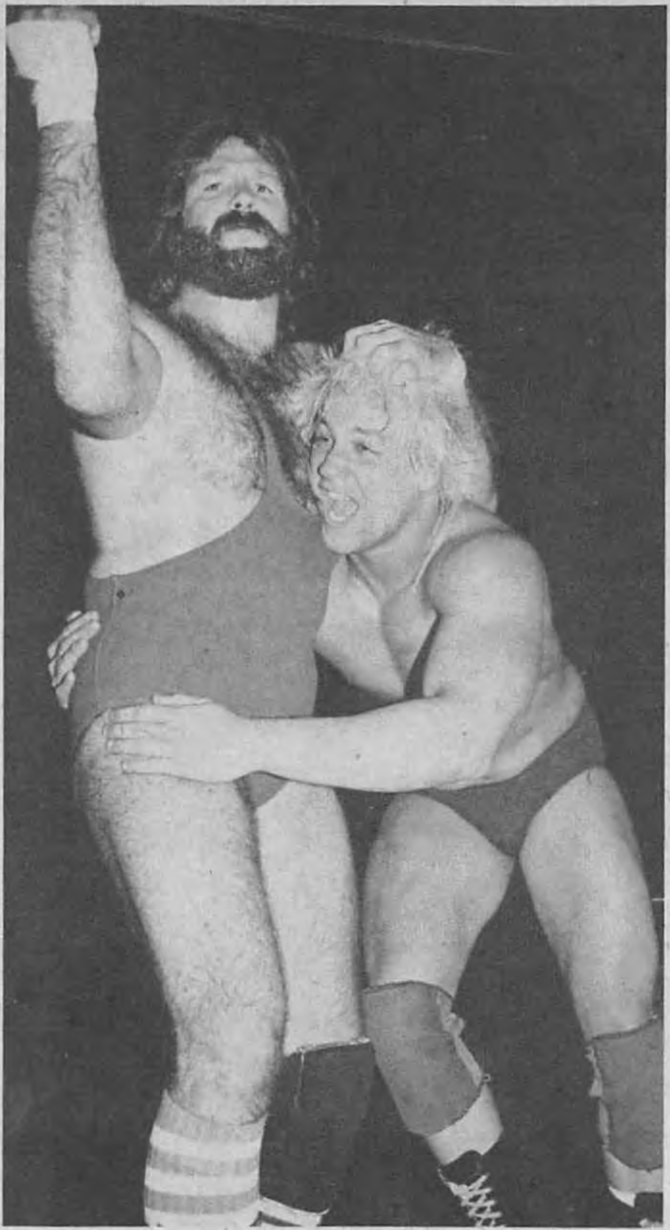
It's no accident Buddy aligned himself with Jimmy Hart. The unscrupulous manager is famed for finding the easy way to victory, and the rules never get in the way. Buddy is the perfect subject for a Hart lesson in wrestling evil. Both men liked each other as much as they hated Dutch Mantel and other wrestlers of that type.

When Mantel made his public challenge to Landell, manager Hart was quick to accept. Several promoters offered generous purses for the match, and the one lucky enough to get the battle immediately put in extra seats. This was going to be one of wrestling's big ones.

One the night of the match, the fans filling the arena anticipated something remarkable. There's a special feeling from a crowd that is ready to see history. This crowd crackled with that feeling.

When the two men entered the ring, the crowd erupted. Mantel stood tall and rugged in his corner. Standing on the opposite end of the mat, Landell preened before the crowd. Hart stood next to his man, looking more like a valet than a manager. Both were tensed for the moment of confrontation.

The bell rang. Mantel burst from his corner. Landell sidestepped beautifully, catching his foe hard with an forearm smash across the chest. Dutch reeled from the blow but stayed on his feet. That pretty much set the tone of the match. Throughout, both men gave and took punishment. Neither man



Mantel asks for—and receives—the approval of the fans before driving his fist into Landell's face (left). Dutch twists Buddy's wrist to the breaking point (above).

could get an advantage.

Both men grew desperate. Landell started using dirty tactics, the kind that could put an unlucky opponent into the hospital. Mantel grew tougher, legally but furiously pounding away at his foe. Hart also became panicky, fearing his wrestler might take more than he could handle. Nothing upsets Hart more than possible injury to a meal ticket.

It's impossible to catalogue what happened next. Landell tried a series of illegal maneuvers in whirlwind fashion. Even he couldn't tell later exactly what he did, though he may simply have not wanted to admit it. By the time the referee disqualified him, Landell had managed to break every rule in several books. Despite this lesson in cheating, Mantel was never in real trouble.

Once he was disqualified, Landell turned to his manager and both men fled. The fans jeered as the two men left, neither one daring to look at the crowd. All they wanted was the refuge of the dressing room and to put this bruising battle behind them.

In the ring, Mantel watched the fleeing pair. When they disappeared, he raised his arms high in victory. The crowd turned to him and applauded wildly. This is what they had come to see—Mantel the conqueror.

Their cheers shook the arena as Mantel strutted around the ring, drinking in their applause. When he walked through the arena to his dressing room, Mantel was accompanied by shouts of the deleriously delighted.

Back in the dressing room, Mantel told the reporters, "This is only the beginning. Landell has to wrestle me again, and the next time he won't get the chance to be disqualified. I'm going to drive him out of wrestling!"

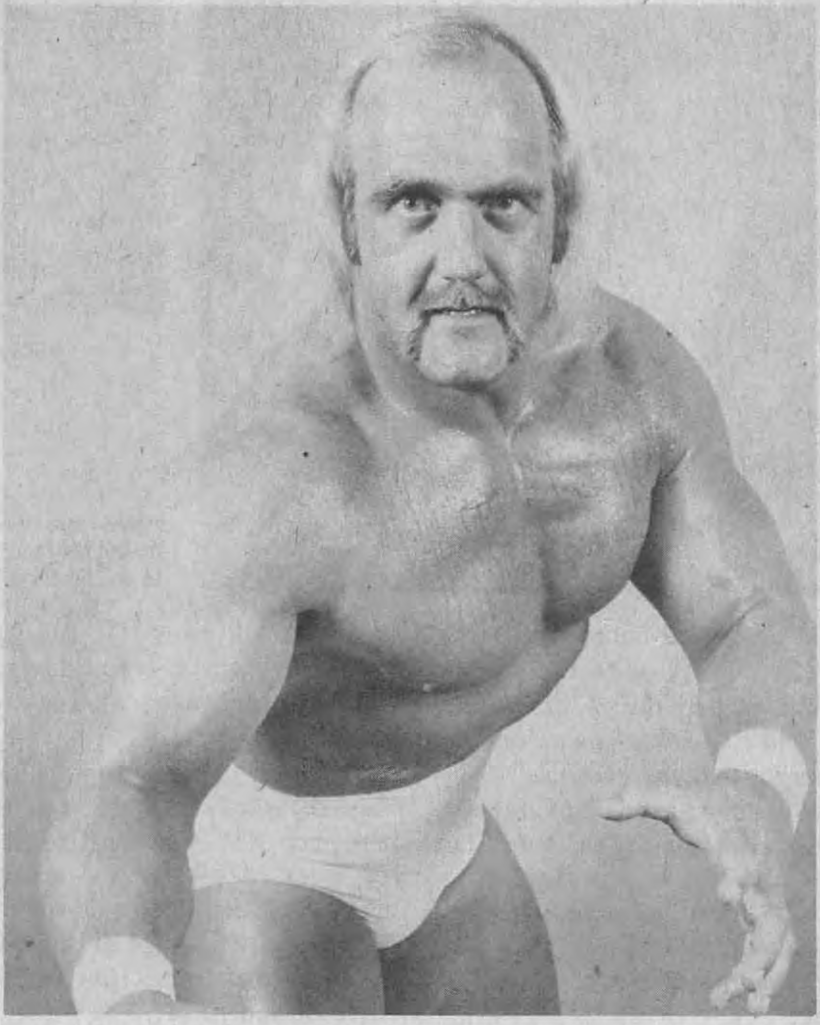
Only later, after he showered and dressed, did Mantel betray the toll of the match on his bruised body. It was difficult to dress and he limped from the arena. All the same, you knew he felt it was worth it. □

Hulk Hogan's Return To The WWF

WHAT IT MEANS TO WRESTLING

THIS ARTICLE WAS originally intended to present a wide range of opinions from a cross-section of wrestling professionals regarding the possibility of Hulk Hogan returning to the WWF area. But, as we were going to press with this issue, The Iron Sheik captured the WWF heavyweight championship from Bob Backlund in New York's Madison Square Garden (details of the title change appear in "What's Happening" on page 8). In light of this development, we telephoned some of those individuals who originally offered their opinions for this article and allowed them the opportunity to revise their statements. Now, more than ever, their viewpoints make for fascinating and important reading.

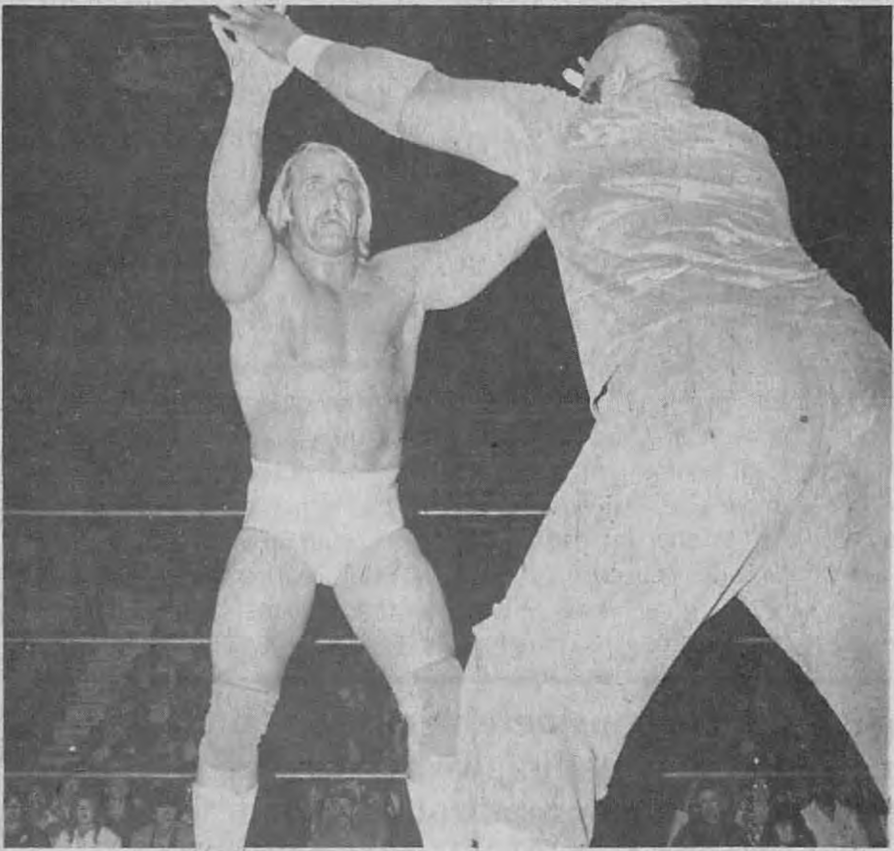
—The Editors



The news could break any day, perhaps between the time these words are written and the time this magazine reaches the newsstands—HULK HOGAN RETURNS TO THE WWF! If and when the rumors become reality, what does this mean to the future of the WWF? A group of wrestling experts offer their perspectives on this possibility

Nick Bockwinkel, AWA World champion: "Yeah, I've heard the rumors, too. Hogan is supposed to be headed toward the WWF area. You know why, don't you? It's quite elementary. Hogan has been frustrated for so long in the AWA, he's tried so many times to defeat me for the title, he's losing his self-esteem. He's beginning to doubt whether he can defeat anyone ever again. So of course he takes the easy way out: He goes to an easier territory where he can rack up some quick and easy wins. But the easy way out is also the loser's way out. By making this move he's proving to me, and to any wrestling fan with even the slightest modicum of intelligence, that he truly is a loser. If I may take the liberty to borrow from an old cliche, Hogan couldn't stand the heat of AWA competition so he got out of the kitchen. Now that The Iron Sheik wears the WWF belt, you can bet that Hogan is going to be looking for a title match. He'll probably get it. And he'll probably win the belt. And should that happen, what does that tell you? A WWF champion who was embarrassed into leaving the country one time because he couldn't come close to defeating me, the AWA World champion? That in itself is the greatest embarrassment."

For a wrestler of his stature, Hogan received few opportunities to wrestle for the WWF title during his first stay in the territory. The Hulk tries to force then-WWF champion Bob Backlund's shoulders to the mat during a match in New Haven.



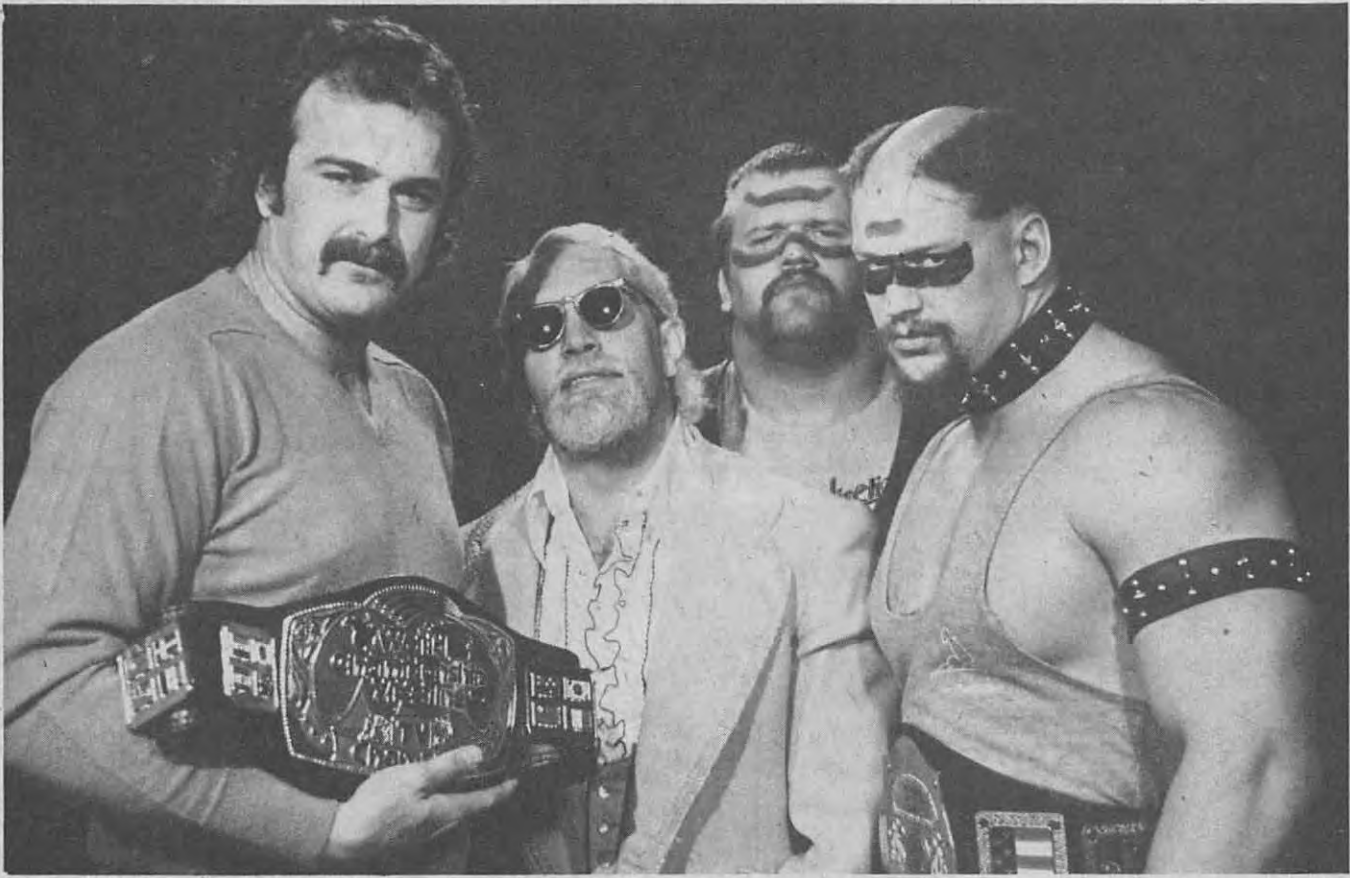
Hogan focuses his attention on Elijah Akeem's fingers as the two behemoths prepare to lock up in a test of strength.

Jimmy "Superfly" Snuka, number four WWF contender: "I just want to say that I admire brother Hogan because he is a tremendous athlete, a man of power, a man of infinite strength. If these rumors are true, if the brother is returning to the WWF area for good, I hope we can sit down and talk about wrestling some tag team matches. You know, we got together in St. Louis a couple of months ago and I was impressed by the brother. He is like the volcano, he is possessed of inner strength and abilities that can explode at any time. I think that the two of us as a team would be able to defeat anybody that came along."

(Continued on page 64)

PAUL ELLERING

"WHY I HAD TO FORM THE LEGION OF DOOM"

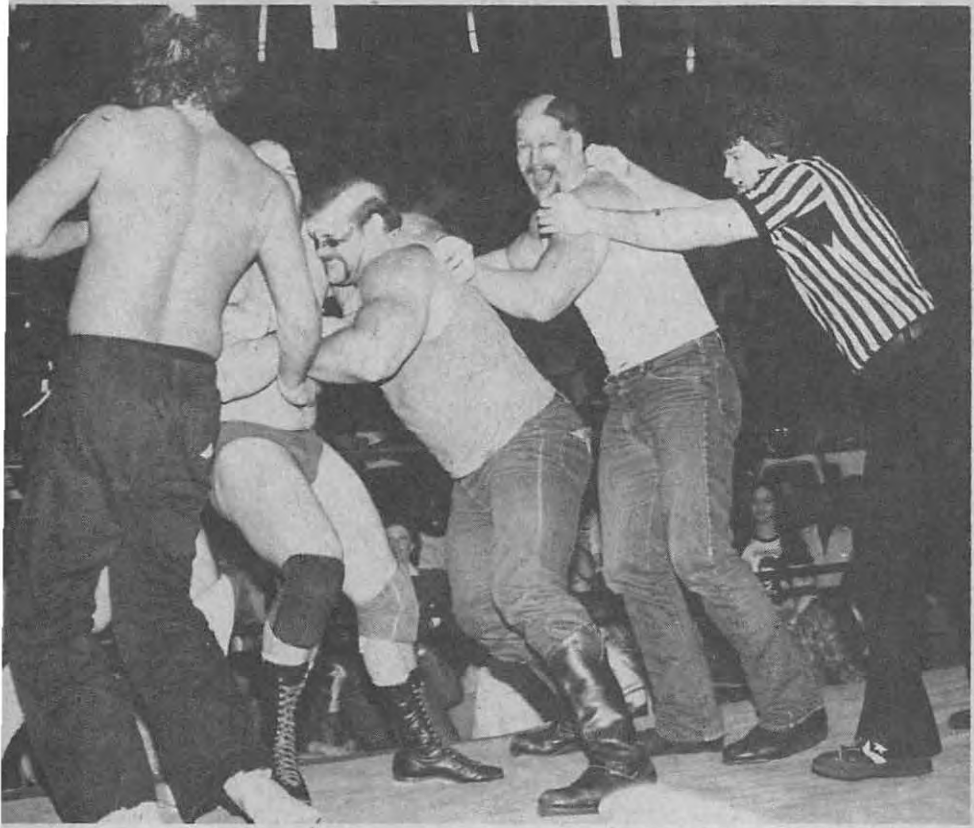


PRECIOUS PAUL ELLERING studied the 420-pound man in the ring with considerable respect. He didn't smile, he didn't frown, but his eyes revealed all: Ellering was projecting into the future, calculating what kind of damage and how many victories the huge man could earn over a month, six months, or a year . . . with Ellering's help, of course.

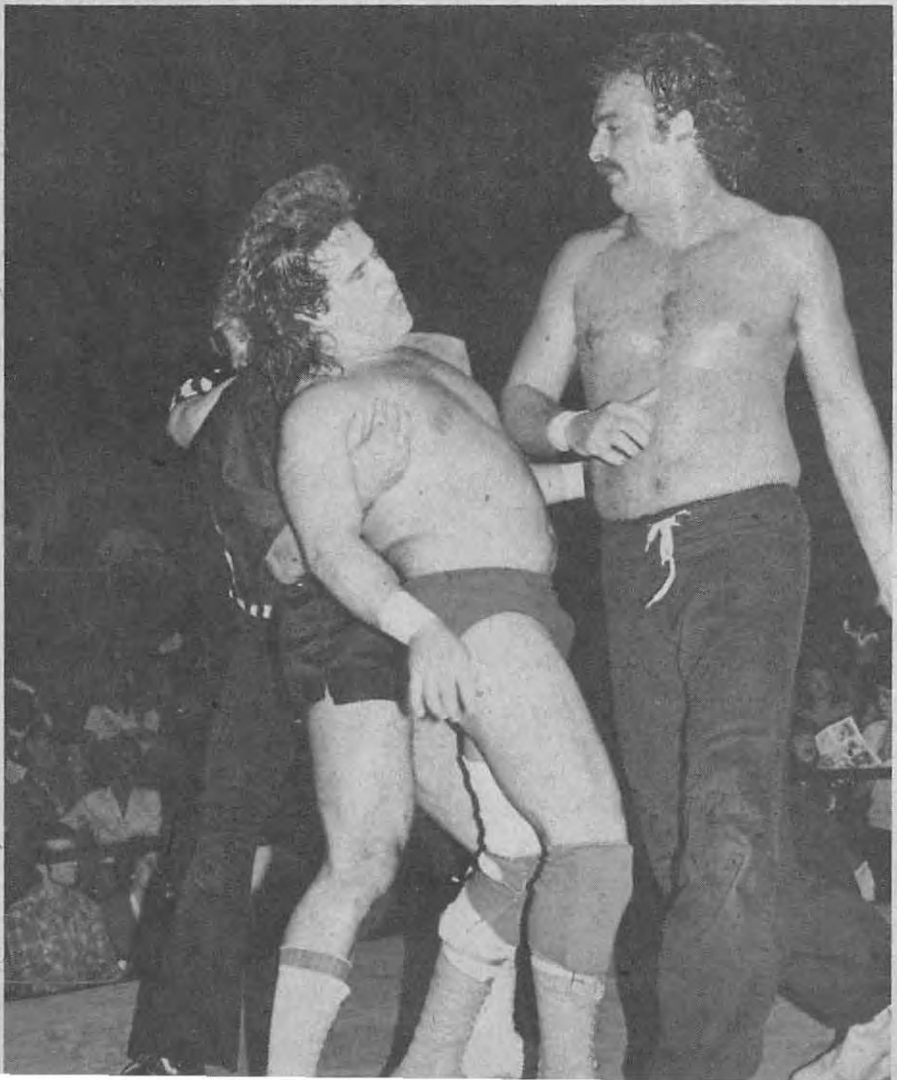
"Very impressive," Ellering said quietly to no one in particular, "very impressive, indeed."

Inside the ring, King Kong Bundy was holding yet another man's shoulders to the canvas for not a three-count, but a *five-count.* After the referee slapped the mat for the fifth time, Bundy stood up and screamed at the fans in the WTBS Television Sports Arena, and at the millions of fans watching *World Championship Wrestling* at

Precious Paul Ellering is a man of considerable power—financial power and power within the wrestling world. Now he is consolidating those strengths in an organization called "The Legion of Doom," an organization that threatens to overrun the entire Georgia wrestling area . . . and may well succeed!



Above: Referee Nick Patrick is unable to stop The Legion of Doom, from left to right, Roberts, Ellering (partially hidden), and The Road Warriors, from attacking Buzz Sawyer. Right: Hawk bloodies a helpless Brett Sawyer. Below: Brett, being held by Ellering, takes a beating from Roberts.



home:

"Nobody can defeat me! Nobody can slam me! I am unbeatable!"

And all the while, Ellering stood on the sidelines. Watching. Studying. Projecting. Calculating.

***

Precious Paul Ellering enjoys talking about professional wrestling and about his financial expertise. With his ever-present *Wall Street Journal* in hand, Ellering recently spoke to *The Wrestler* about his stable of wrestlers.

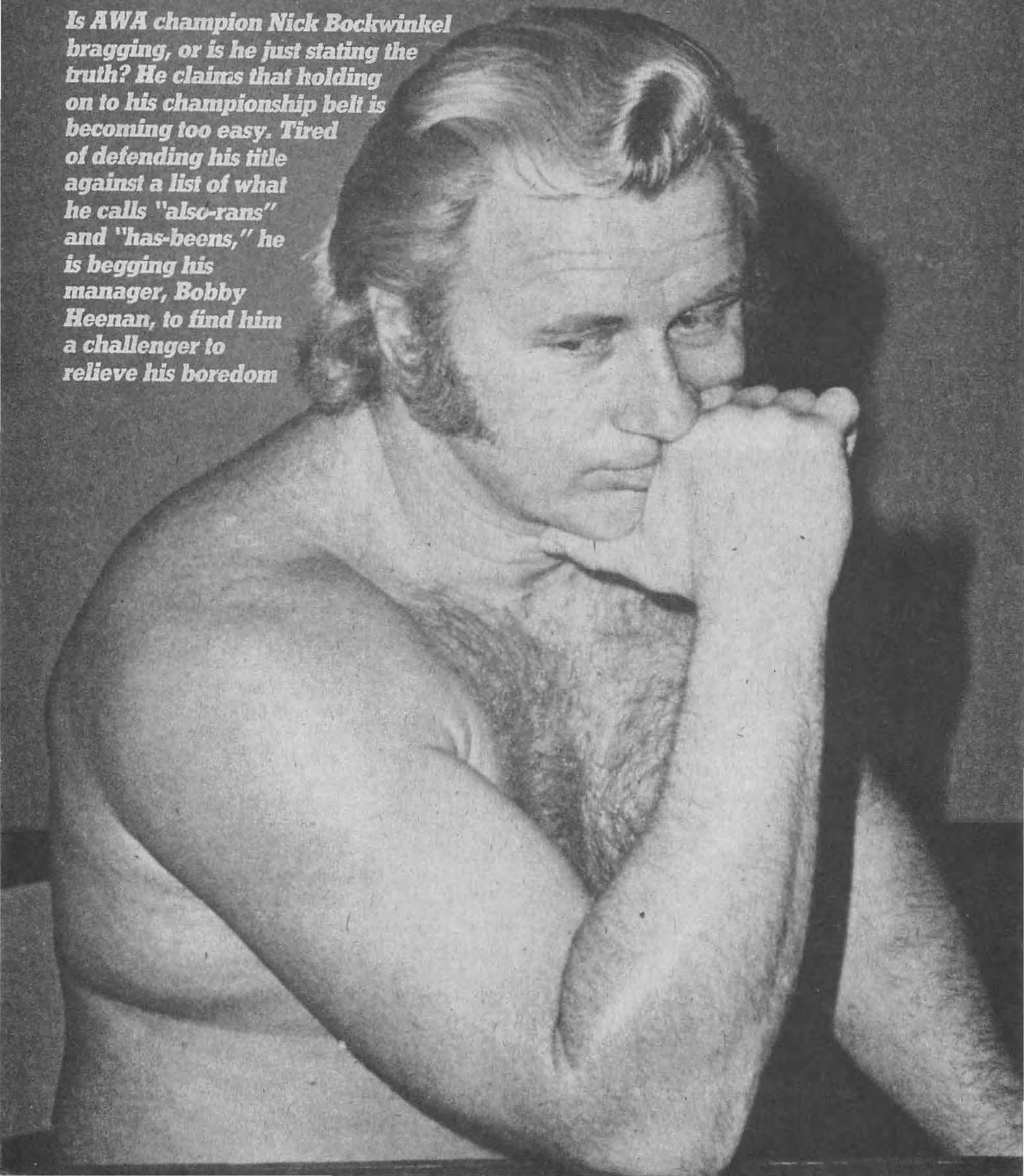
"What I am doing is building a collection of wrestling talent that will rival any managerial stable anywhere in the world," Ellering said. "As you are no doubt well aware, however, important acquisitions take time . . . and money. A multimillion-dollar stock portfolio and a multimillion-dollar stable of championship wrestlers are quite similar: Both are things of beauty that takes years to properly construct.

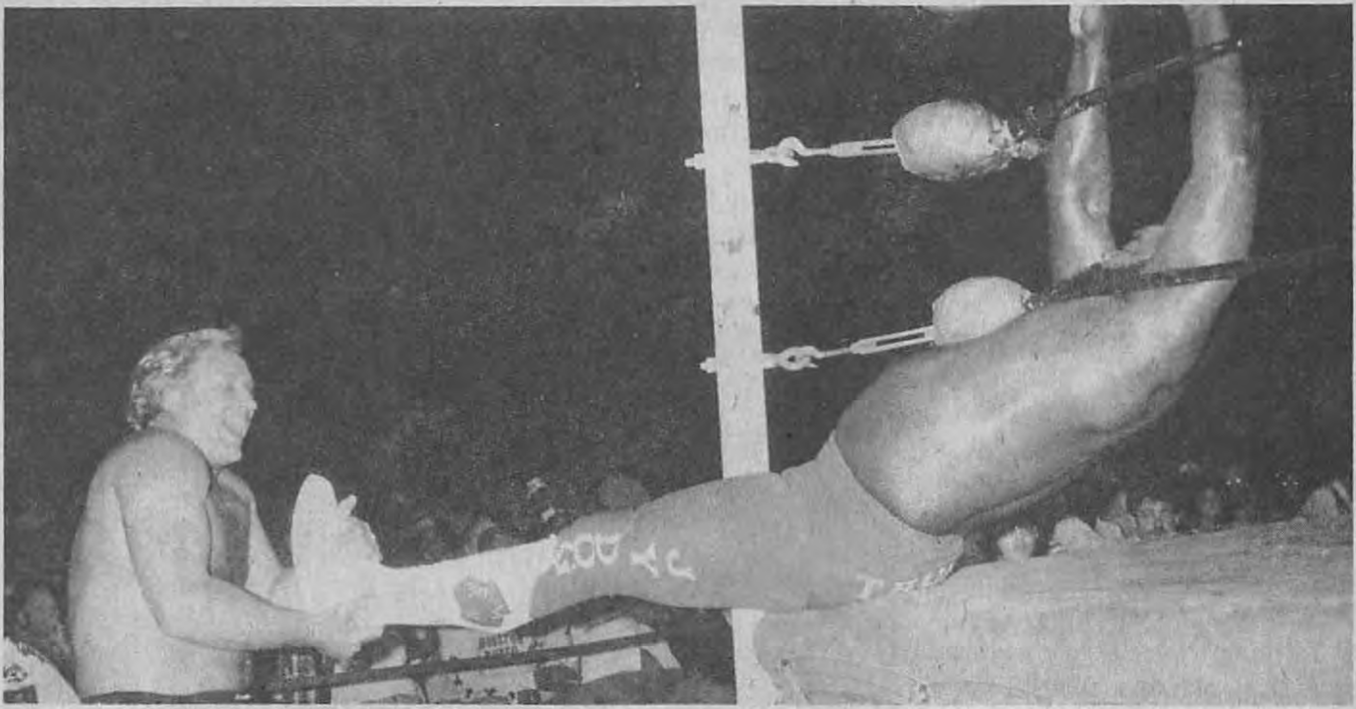
(Continued on page 48)

Nick Bockwinkel Tells Bobby Heenan:

"I'M BORED . . . FIND SOMEONE TO CHALLENGE ME!"

Is AWA champion Nick Bockwinkel bragging, or is he just stating the truth? He claims that holding on to his championship belt is becoming too easy. Tired of defending his title against a list of what he calls "also-rans" and "has-beens," he is begging his manager, Bobby Heenan, to find him a challenger to relieve his boredom





Bockwinkel traveled to Houston to take on the challenge of the talented Junkyard Dog. Nick feels he's wrestled all the qualified contenders in the Midwest.

"I USED TO buy myself a gift after every major victory," Nick Bockwinkel said. "Now I buy myself something after every victory. There aren't any big wins anymore. There are no big opponents anymore."

There wasn't a trace of sarcasm in the voice of the AWA champion. His voice and his facial expression were sincere. The familiar Nick Bockwinkel smirk was absent. The Bockwinkel bravado was resting, waiting for the wrestler's next match to make its reappearance.

Bockwinkel walked around the den of his Beverly Hills, California, home, stopping here and there to casually examine a souvenir, a trophy, or the finish on the newly paneled walls. He picked a large black-marble carved Buddha off of its pedestal. "I bought this when I beat Jumbo Tsuruta in Japan," he said. It just sits here. Who needs a 130-pound black-marble Buddha? I'm not even a Buddhist, and I don't have enough papers to need *this* big a paperweight.

"I used to buy these things as a joke," Bockwinkel continued. "These days, I'm buying them to cheer me up. It's the only exciting part about winning anymore. The matches certainly aren't very thrilling."

Bockwinkel reaches through the ropes to slam Rick Martel's head into the ring apron.

The AWA World champion, entering the second year of his third title reign, claims that the AWA talent pool has dried up. Despite a recent list of challengers that includes Hulk Hogan, Rick Martel, and Mil Mascaras, Bockwinkel says that he is bored. "I remember when you could depend on the old man [former champion Verne Gagne] to give you a good match, but now he's gone," Bockwinkel said. "And as limited as his intelligence was, Ivan Putski was at least a physical challenge. Now Verne's doing charity work, and Putski is spending more time in the gym than the ring.

"Billy Robinson, now there was a wrestler. He was smart, he had all the moves, and he wasn't afraid to take chances. His only problem was he wasn't aggressive enough. He was used to that European style. Now that he's finally adapted to the American methods, he's past his prime. Everything has slowed down just enough to make him easy to beat.

Bockwinkel has not exactly found the secret of eternal youth, but he has held on to what wrestlers call "the edge," that crispness in performance, that perfect sense of timing that separates champions from challengers.

"It's funny," he says, "sometimes I feel like the world is aging all around me, but I don't feel older at all. When I see a guy like Robinson slow down, my first reaction is, 'My God, I'm getting old.' But then I look at my accomplishments and I look at my title belt, and I see that I'm still on top, and

I figure I haven't slowed down at all. I've succeeded at reaping the only positive benefit of age, and that's experience."

Bockwinkel sat down, then got up, then sat down again. He was uncomfortable in his own home. "I'm not good at being home," he said. "I'm good at being on airplanes, good at waiting in dressing rooms, and good at being in the ring. I'm not used to being here. Hotel rooms feel more like home."

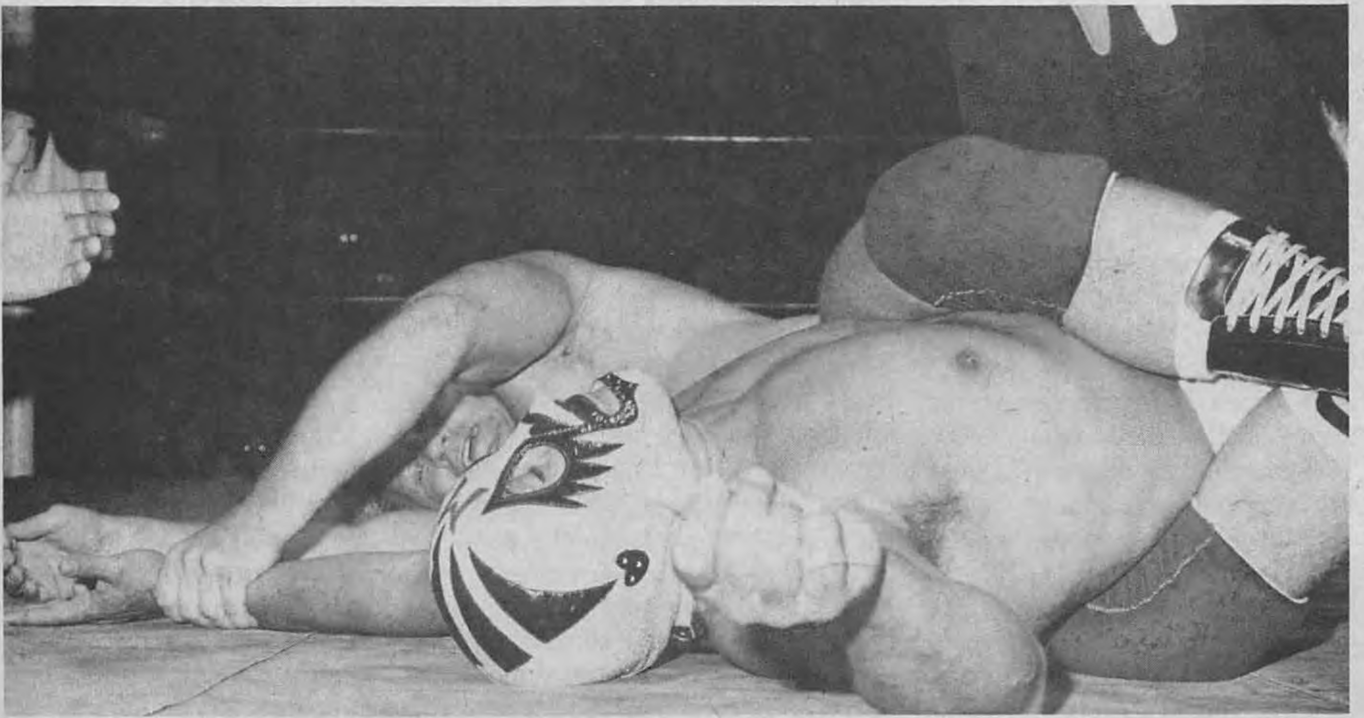
The obvious solution seemed to be for Bockwinkel to tell his manager, Bobby Heenan, to sign some matches for him. But Nick laughed at the suggestion. "Matches? Matches against whom? Who else is there to wrestle? How many times can one man wrestle Mad Dog Vachon? How many times can one man look at Mad Dog Vachon. *And* Rick Martel. *And* Hulk Hogan. I see these jerks more often than I see my maid."

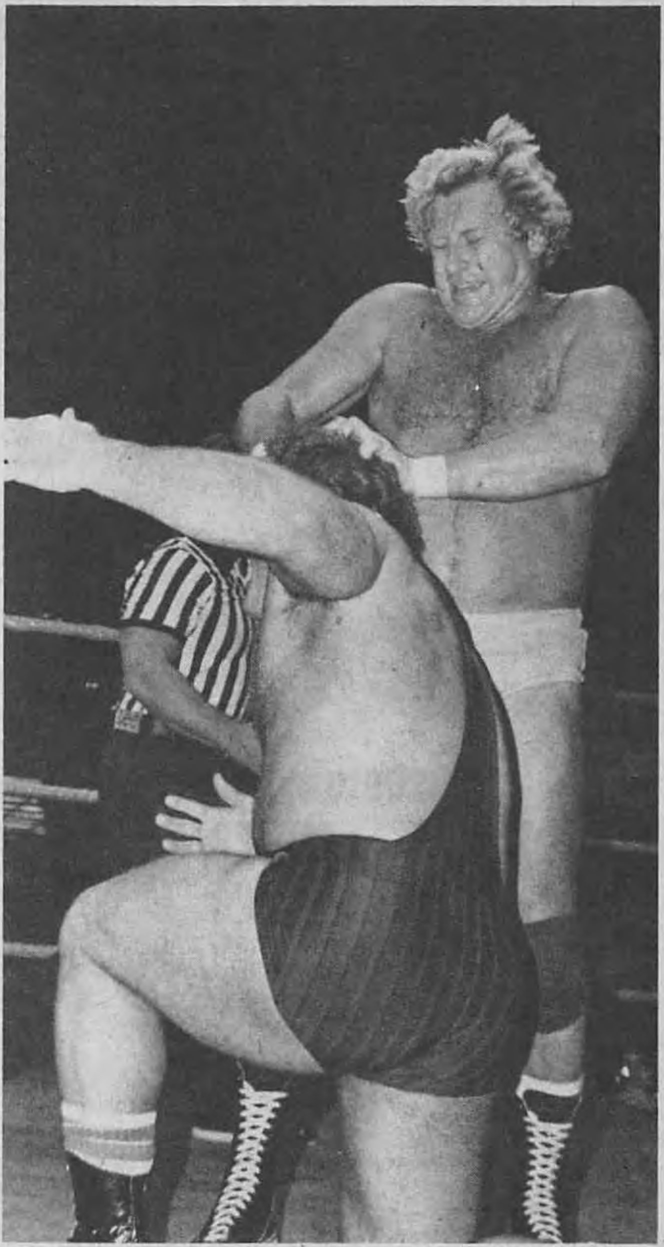
Indeed, Bockwinkel is quite familiar with the challengers to his title, and, in fact, he has sought out challengers outside of the AWA. He has defended the title in Houston and in the Mid-Southern region against top stars from those areas, but even these forays out of the Midwest fail to satisfy Bockwinkel's competitive nature. Among the wrestlers the AWA champ has battled on the road are two former NWA World champions, Dusty Rhodes and Tommy Rich.

"Don't put those two in the same category," Bockwinkel said. "Tommy Rich doesn't have the right to be mentioned in the same breath as Dusty. For all the years he has been wrestling, Rich is still a little boy.

"Rhodes is a legend. He might be the toughest opponent I've ever had. Rich, on the other hand, was a more willing victim than a rookie like Brad Rheingans. Rich still gets off on the cheers of the fans. He

Bockwinkel made a successful defense against Dusty Rhodes (above), whom he respects but does not feel is qualified to defeat him. Nick's match last August with Mil Masacaras (below) was highly controversial, though Mil never received a rematch.





When Mad Dog Vachon executed a piledriver and appeared to be on the verge of winning the title (above left), Bockwinkel received help from his manager, Bobby Heenan. The champion feels Brad Rheingans (above right) could win the title some day, but right now the former amateur standout is not in his class.

should worry as much about wrestling as he does about his hair."

As complimentary as Bockwinkel is of the "American Dream," he doesn't consider Rhodes worthy of his title. "He gets too emotional," Bockwinkel said. "He's always fighting everybody else's fight. I can't see him changing."

Although Bockwinkel sounds cocky and self-satisfied, his title reign has been tainted by a high percentage of intentional self-disqualifications and outside help from Heenan. He resents his challengers, yet few championship reigns in the history of the sport have been more controversial.

"After my last match against Mad Dog Vachon," he said, "I walked back into the dressing room. Bobby [Heenan] was sitting there puffing away on a cigar. I just threw the belt onto a table, looked him right in the eye, and I said, 'I'm bored, Bobby. Find someone to challenge me.' It has just gotten to the point that I can't be bothered wrestling nobodys and nothings. The AWA ratings is nothing but a list of 10 has-beens and also-rans. So, I get more time to hang around the house. I'm not used to this. I have to learn how to relax.

"One thing I won't be doing is accepting matches against people whom I don't think are deserving. I'm going to start being a little more choosy. I don't need the money. Maybe it's time to take it a little easy."

The words came from Bockwinkel's mouth, but they didn't seem to originate from Bockwinkel's heart. Even if he sounded believable, one could be sure that his pen would be poised to sign for the next big match, the next challenger, the match that will relieve his boredom. □

OFFI
WRESTLIN

Ratings are based on won-lost records for the past month, quality of opposition, and the inherent skill of each wrestler. These ratings are compiled by the editors and are universally recognized as official.

Harley Race

Pedro Morales

TOP 10

1—RIC FLAIR
243, Minneapolis, MN
2—ANDRE THE GIANT
497, Grenoble, France
3—DAVID VON ERICH
247, Denton, TX
4—DUSTY RHODES
302, Austin, TX
5—NICK BOCKWINKEL
245, Beverly Hills, CA
6—HULK HOGAN
320, Venice Beach, CA
7—PEDRO MORALES
240, Culebra, Puerto Rico
8—HARLEY RACE
253, Kansas City, MO
9—DINO BRAVO
248, Montreal, Quebec
10—RODDY PIPER
231, Scotland

NWA

World Champion:
RIC FLAIR
243, Kansas City, MO

1—DICK SLATER
235, Tampa, FL
2—TED DiBIASE
247, Omaha, NE
3—DAVID VON ERICH
247, Denton, TX
4—MIKE ROTONDO
245, Syracuse, NY
5—HARLEY RACE
253, Kansas City, MO
6—RON BASS
285, Pampa, TX
7—TOMMY RICH
238, Hendersonville, TN
8—GREG VALENTINE
243, Seattle, WA
9—CARLOS COLON
238, Bayamon, Puerto Rico
10—CHRIS ADAMS
225, Stratford on Avon, England

AWA

World Champion:
NICK BOCKWINKEL
245, Beverly Hills, CA

1—MAD DOG VACHON
225, Algeria
2—BILLY ROBINSON
246, Manchester, England
3—BRAD RHEINGANS
248, Minneapolis, MN
4—MR. SAITO
247, Osaka, Japan
5—KEN PATERA
256, Portland, OR
6—BLACKJACK LANZA
260, Laredo, TX
7—JERRY LAWLER
234, Memphis, TN
8—SUPERSTAR GRAHAM
260, Paradise Valley, AZ
9—CRUSHER BLACKWELL
474, Stone Mountain, GA
10—JESSE VENTURA
270, Muscle Beach, CA

NWA and AWA ratings are compiled with the assistance of wrestlers, promoters, and reporters. "Most Popular" and "Most Hated" ratings are based on nationwide surveys of wrestling fans and on mail that comes to our offices.

TAG TEAMS

1—RICK STEAMBOAT & JAY YOUNGBLOOD
NWA World tag team champions
Combined weight: 475 pounds
2—KEN PATERA & CRUSHER BLACKWELL
AWA World tag team champions
Combined weight: 710 pounds
3—THE ROAD WARRIORS
National tag team champions
Combined weight: 567 pounds
4—THE VON ERICHS
World Class six-man tag team champions
Combined weight: 752 pounds*
5—DUSTY RHODES & BLACKJACK MULLIGAN
U.S. tag team champions
Combined weight: 612 pounds
6—ROCKY JOHNSON & TONY ATLAS
WWF tag team champions
Combined weight: 491 pounds
7—MR. WRESTLING II & MAGNUM T.A.
Mid-South tag team champions
Combined weight: 497 pounds
8—STEVE KEIRN & STAN LANE
Mid-Southern tag team champions
Combined weight: 479 pounds
9—TONY PARISI & GINO BRITO
Canadian International tag team champions
Combined weight: 493 pounds
10—THE MASKED MEDICS
World Wrestling Council North American champions
Combined weight: 477 pounds
**Combined weights reflect three team members*

MOST POPULAR

1—BUZZ SAWYER
240, St. Petersburg, FL
2—ANDRE THE GIANT
497, Grenoble, France
3—DUSTY RHODES
302, Austin, TX
4—JIMMY SNUKA
250, Fiji Islands
5—JUNKYARD DOG
260, New Orleans, LA
6—TOMMY RICH
238, Hendersonville, TN
7—KERRY VON ERICH
251, Denton, TX
8—HULK HOGAN
320, Venice Beach, CA
9—MIKE ROTONDO
245, Syracuse, NY
10—MAGNUM T.A.
245, Chesapeake, VA

MOST HATED

1—NIKOLAI VOLKOFF
345, Siberia, Russia
2—GREG VALENTINE
243, Seattle, WA
3—KING KONG BUNDY
420, Atlantic City, NJ
4—HACKSAW REED
249, Kansas City, MO
5—TED DiBIASE
247, Omaha, NE
6—NICK BOCKWINKEL
245, Beverly Hills, CA
7—RON BASS
285, Pampa, FL
8—THE IRON SHEIK
262, Teheran, Iran
9—JIM GARVIN
235, Tampa, FL
10—KENDO NAGASAKI
248, Singapore

CIAL
G RATINGS

Below are the ratings for the top regional wrestling areas of the country. These ratings are based on nationwide surveys of wrestlers, promoters, and reporters.

WWF

Champion:
THE IRON SHEIK
262, Teheran, Iran

1—**BOB BACKLUND** *242, Princeton, MN*
2—**MAGNIFICENT MURACO** *262, Sunset Beach, HI*
3—**PAUL ORNDORFF** *253, Brandon, FL*
4—**JIMMY SNUKA** *250, Fiji Islands*
5—**MASKED SUPERSTAR** *282, Atlanta, GA*
6—**TITO SANTANA** *245, Mission, TX*
7—**SGT. SLAUGHTER** *310, Paris Island, SC*
8—**ROCKY JOHNSON** *244, Washington, DC*
9—**TONY ATLAS** *247, Roanoke, VA*
10—**IVAN PUTSKI** *242, Krakow, Poland*

GEORGIA

1—**TED DiBIASE** *247, Omaha, NE*
2—**JAKE ROBERTS** *243, Baton Rouge, LA*
3—**BUZZ SAWYER** *240, St. Petersburg, FL*
4—**BRETT SAWYER** *242, St. Petersburg, FL*
5—**TOMMY RICH** *238, Hendersonville, TN*
6—**KING KONG BUNDY** *420, Atlantic City, NJ*
7—**THE SHEIK** *251, Saudi Arabia*
8—**PEZ WHATLEY** *238, El Paso, TX*
9—**RONNIE GARVIN** *231, Montreal, Quebec*
10—**BUGSY McGRAW** *245, New York, NY*

FLORIDA

1—**RON BASS** *285, Pampa, TX*
2—**MIKE ROTONDO** *245, Syracuse, NY*
3—**DUSTY RHODES** *302, Austin, TX*
4—**BLACKJACK MULLIGAN** *310, Sweetwater, TX*
5—**DIRTY YELLOW DOG** *230, parts unknown*
6—**MIKE GRAHAM** *232, Tampa, FL*
7—**MIKE DAVIS** *232, Atlanta, GA*
8—**ONE MAN GANG** *402, Chicago, IL*
9—**KENDO NAGASAKI** *248, Singapore*
10—**HECTOR GUERRERO** *243, Mexico*

MID-ATLANTIC

1—**DICK SLATER** *235, Tampa, FL*
2—**GREG VALENTINE** *243, Seattle, WA*
3—**RODDY PIPER** *231, Scotland*
4—**RUFUS R. JONES** *287, Boston, MA*
5—**WAHOO McDANIEL** *260, Midland, TX*
6—**COWBOY BOB ORTON** *245, Kansas City, KS*
7—**JIMMY VALIANT** *251, New York, NY*
8—**THE GREAT KABUKI** *252, Singapore*
9—**BUGSY McGRAW** *245, New York, NY*
10—**MARK YOUNGBLOOD** *230, Amarillo, TX*

WORLD CLASS

1—**CHRIS ADAMS** *225, Stratford on Avon, England*
2—**DAVID VON ERICH** *247, Denton, TX*
3—**KEVIN VON ERICH** *254, Denton, TX*
4—**JIM GARVIN** *235, Tampa, FL*
5—**KERRY VON ERICH** *251, Denton, TX*
6—**ICEMAN PARSONS** *242, St. Louis, MO*
7—**KAMALA** *360, Uganda*
8—**SUPER DESTROYER** *271, parts unknown*
9—**BRIAN ADIDAS** *240, Lake Dallas, TX*
10—**SUPER DESTROYER II** *271, parts unknown*

MID-SOUTH

1—**JUNKYARD DOG** *260, New Orleans, LA*
2—**NIKOLAI VOLKOFF** *345, Siberia, Russia*
3—**KRUSHER DARSOW** *303, Thief River Falls, MN*
4—**HACKSAW REED** *249, Kansas City, MO*
5—**MAGNUM T.A.** *245, Chesapeake, VA*
6—**MR. WRESTLING II** *232, Atlanta, GA*
7—**HACKSAW DUGGAN** *280, New York, NY*
8—**KAMALA** *360, Uganda*
9—**TERRY TAYLOR** *219, Tampa, FL*
10—**STEVE WILLIAMS** *234, Tulsa, OK*

MID-SOUTHERN

1—**AUSTIN IDOL** *240, Las Vegas, NV*
2—**JERRY LAWLER** *234, Memphis, TN*
3—**JOS LeDUC** *280, Godbout, Quebec*
4—**RANDY SAVAGE** *235, Sarasota, FL*
5—**KING KONGA** *302, parts unknown*
6—**DUTCH MANTEL** *224, Oil Trough, TX*
7—**STEVE KEIRN** *220, Tampa, FL*
8—**STAN LANE** *219, Del Ray, FL*
9—**MR. EBONY** *240, parts unknown*
10—**KOKO WARE** *217, Union City, TN*

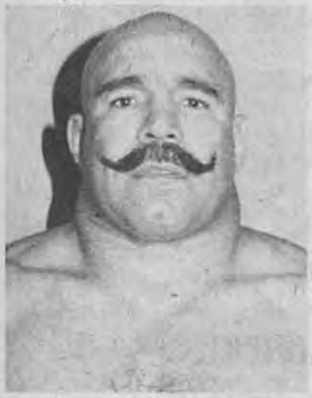
NORTHWEST

1—**BILLY JACK** *245, Portland, OR*
2—**RIP OLIVER** *245, Tampa, FL*
3—**DYNAMITE KID** *225, England*
4—**JULES STRONGBOW** *247, Pawhuska, OK*
5—**PLAYBOY BUDDY ROSE** *245, Minneapolis, MN*
6—**THE ASSASSIN** *240, parts unknown*
7—**CURT HENNIG** *235, Minneapolis, MN*
8—**SCOTT McGHEE** *220, Shipley, England*
9—**CHAVO GUERRERO** *237, Juarez, Mexico*
10—**MATT BORNE** *240, Milwaukie, OR*

RATINGS ANALYSIS

Every month, this column will tell fans how we go about rating more than 150 wrestlers in 14 different categories. It is a behind-the-scenes look at the most important—and respected—ratings system in the sport. This column is vital reading for all wrestling fans

Championship changes: As of press time, there are some very important changes in the ratings that should be pointed out, all the results of recent title changes.



The Iron Sheik

Mike Rotondo

The first thing you'll notice is that **The Iron Sheik** is listed as WWF champion. This is not a mistake. The Iron Sheik captured the belt from **Bob Backlund** in New York's Madison Square Garden on December 26, just as we were going to press. Details can be found in "What's Happening" on page 8. The Iron Sheik's victory also places him into the Most Hated ratings at the number eight spot.

Furthermore: **Mike Rotondo** is now rated number two in Florida, having won the Florida title in a recent tournament following the stripping of the title from **Barry Windham** ... **Dick Slater** is rated number one in the Mid-Atlantic. As of press time, Slater holds *both* the Mid-Atlantic and U.S. heavyweight championships. While **Greg Valentine** is rated number two in that area, the spot usually occupied by the Mid-Atlantic champion, remember that he does not hold that title ... In the tag team category, **The Von Erichs** (now rated fourth) have regained the World Class six-man tag team title from **The Freebirds; Dusty Rhodes** and **Blackjack Mulligan** (rated fifth) now hold the U.S. tag team title; **Mr. Wrestling II** and **Magnum T.A.** (rated seventh) have won the Mid-South tag team belts; **Tony Parisi** and **Gino Brito** (rated ninth) are now the Canadian International tag team champions; and **The Masked Medics** (rated 10th) are currently the WWC North American tag team champions ... **Billy Jack** has regained the Pacific Northwest title from Rip Oliver and is now rated number one in that area.

As of press time ... The offices of this magazine have been receiving a lot of mail from readers addressed to "Ratings Analysis" asking: "If so-and-so holds a particular championship, why isn't he rated in such-and-such a spot?"

The reason for this is quite simple, and is also the reason why the first words in this month's column are "As of press time."

There is an unfortunate but necessary period of time between the day the magazine is completed and sent to the printer and the day it arrives at your local newsstand. During these weeks, one or more of wrestling's many championships may (and very often do) change hands.

We always strive to bring you the most up-to-date news possible, but we can never anticipate when a title will be changing hands. In any event, you can always be sure that the "Official Wrestling Ratings" are the most accurate and comprehensive ratings available anywhere in professional wrestling.

The address for mail: We always enjoy reading your comments about our ratings system and this "Ratings Analysis" column. Send them to: "Ratings Analysis" c/o *The Wrestler;* Box 48; Rockville Centre; NY 11571. □

DUSTY RHODES

(Continued from page 30)

the office wearing the most conservative three-piece gray suit anyone had ever seen. "Dusty," a reporter asked, "where'd you get the suit? Did you mug a banker?" Rhodes didn't laugh.

He was in the commissioner's office for over three hours. When he emerged, Rhodes looked like a man who been sitting for three hours in the electric chair only to discover a blown fuse prevented him from being killed. He also looked like a man who knew how easy it is to get another fuse.

The referee, who would later play an important role in both wrestlers' futures with his report to the commissioner, checks Rhodes' level of consciousness as Volkoff applies a tremendous bearhug.

Rhodes announced, "I've been put on probation. The same will happen to Volkoff. If either of us ignores a referee again, it will be immediate one-year suspension and $10,000 fine. I fully believe the man means it."

And Rhodes left, shaken but relieved. That's exactly how most of the people in wrestling felt when they heard the decision.

The commissioner was pleased with the result—and himself. □

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Beyond the Squared Circle

Old friends Jacques Rougeau and Lou Thesz, who recently had a reunion in Montreal, pose with Dino Bravo.

While in training, Booker T. Streetman maintains a very strict diet.

Columbus, Georgia, promoter Fred Ward negotiates with the World women's champion of 27 years, Fabulous Moolah.

Wrestling announcer Gordon Solie, his wife, Smokey, son Eric, and Associate Editor Craig Peters (far left) are served wine by the man who was named Tampa, Florida's "Waiter of the Year," Pablo Rodriguez.

Buck Robley, whom nobody calls yellow, takes a cup of coffee in the dressing room.

A grade-school photo of . . . ? How'd you ever guess? It's Buzz Sawyer, of course.

Florida TV announcer Barbara Clary shares her wrestling knowledge with rookie Dennis Brown.

Jerry Lawler denies that he is considering forming a tag team with the San Diego chicken.

Music to sooth the savage assassin? Assassin I, who along with Assassin II are now called the A-Team, does not appreciate the musical talents of his co-manager, Jim Cornette.

Masked Medic I covers his face before photographer Bill Apter can take his picture in Puerto Rico.

Senior Editor Bill Apter conducts a studio photo session with the incredible Hulk Hogan. Hogan, who had a role in *Rocky III,* is very accustomed to being in front of hot lights and cameras.

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PAUL ELLERING

(Continued from page 37)

"But already the professional wrestling world is sitting up and taking notice," Ellering continued. "Already The Legion of Doom has built a reputation for success and invincibility that is unparalleled in the world of sport.

"Everyone is probably wondering why I had to form The Legion of Doom," Ellering continued. "The answer to that question is simultaneously simple and complex, and requires some explanation.

"First of all, The Legion of Doom is more than simply a name, it is a way of life, a manner of thinking, and a combination of financial benefits that has been heretofore unheard of in professional wrestling. My wrestlers win for me, and I in turn provide them with more comforts than the average multinational corporation provides their vice-presidential staffs.

"And how is The Legion of Doom a way of life?" Ellering asked rhetorically. "It is a way of winning, a sense that one cannot and will not be defeated. And that concept is quickly realized when one has such talent as Jake 'The Snake' Roberts, a consummate athlete who comes alone once in a generation, or perhaps once in every third generation, and The Road Warriors, Hawk and Animal, the National tag team champions and the undisputed tag team of the year."

Ellering has been courting such men as Abdullah the Butcher, Killer Brooks, and Ivan Koloff, reportedly offering them large sums of money to sign long-term contracts.

"I had to form The Legion of Doom because of certain financial

Above: Hawk aims his fist at Dusty Rhodes' open facial wound as Animal holds the "American Dream" in place. Below: Roberts' illegal use of the ropes goes unnoticed by the referee.

considerations," Ellering noted, "and because I felt the need to focus my own efforts and the strengths of my men into a single, united front that could eventually become the dominant force in the Georgia area. So far, all my plans for The Legion have gone exactly according to schedule."

Most recently, Ellering has acquired The Sheik, famed for his violent feuds throughout the '60s and '70s with such stars as Fred Blassie, John Tolos, Pampero Firpo, and Bruno Sammartino, and for using everything from fire to snakes to metallic objects in the ring.

But the man with whom Ellering has reportedly been negotiating heavily is King Kong Bundy. The addition of Bundy to The Legion of Doom could influence the course of Georgia area wrestling for some time to come. The combination of Bundy, The Sheik, Jake Roberts, and The Road Warriors would form a virtually unbeatable stable of wrestlers . . . and insure a steady flow of cash from match purses into Ellering's already considerable financial reserves.

* * *

Precious Paul Ellering is perhaps the most brilliant and cunning manager in professional wrestling. He knows that men like King Kong Bundy make money, and he wants that money desperately.

Watching Bundy compete, Ellering is like Thomas Edison watching his incandescent bulb light up for the first time: He is imagining the possibilities, considering the vast potential, realizing the incredible achievements that can be made if the existing potential is properly cultivated.

Ellering has the knowledge to cultivate Bundy's skills. Whether he will be able to do so is dependent on whether he can make an offer to Bundy that the big man from Atlantic City cannot refuse.

Should that happen, The Legion of Doom would certainly live up to Ellering's characterization: "impressive. Very impressive, indeed." ☐

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WHAT'S HAPPENING

(Continued from page 8)

time. But he finally caught me in it, and it felt like knives were digging into my back all over the place. I was screaming in pain, and Arnold must have been afraid for me because he threw in the towel. I don't know. Golly, I just don't know what to think. I . . . I'm sorry, I just don't know what to say right now. I'm sorry."

The tag team of **Butch Reed** and **Jim Neidhart** may be falling apart, primarily due to their recent loss of the Mid-South tag team title to **Mr. Wrestling II** and **Magnum T.A.** Reed is blaming his partner for the loss, citing Neidhart's repeated attempts to unmask Wrestling II.

"He calls himself 'Anvil' Jim Neidhart, but he should start calling himself 'Iron Head' Neidhart after *that* match!" Reed screamed. "What the hell was he trying to do? Hell, forget about Wrestling II's mask!

"Anvil" Jim Neidhart is being blamed by Butch Reed for their title loss to Mr. Wrestling II and Magnum T.A.

Winning the match is the first thing. Ain't nobody give a damn what that old man looks like anyway. Son of a . . . That idiot cost us the belts!"

Neidhart did manage to remove Wrestling II's mask—but Wrestling II had a second mask underneath! Good planning, II!

Buzz Sawyer grabs a handful of Paul Ellering's hair. Soon after, Ellering would have no hair to grab!

Precious Paul Ellering received a special Christmas present from **Buzz Sawyer:** a new hairdo. Sawyer shaved Ellering's head as the result of a Loser Lose Hair Match . . . **Dino Bravo** recently pinned AWA World champion **Nick Bockwinkel** in Montreal, but it was a non-title match . . . **Bruiser Bob Sweetan** has captured the WWC Puerto Rican heavyweight title from **King Tonga.**

In last month's issue of *The Wrestler,* **Fred Blassie** and **Bobby Heenan** issued a warning to **Jimmy Hart** saying that **"Jesse Ventura** is unmanageable." It seems that Hart must have read that story, because he has decided not to renew Ventura's contract. "Blassie and Heenan were right," Hart told us. "Ventura is a madman. I don't need him. It takes too much time to control him, time better spent managing the rest of my stable." Ventura, by the way, has returned to the AWA area, where he is now teaming with **Mr. Saito**.

Congratulations to **Billy Jack**, who regained the Pacific Northwest heavyweight title from **Rip Oliver** . . . **Ivan Koloff** and **Don Kernodle** are now in the Mid-Atlantic area under the man-

agement of **Gary Hart** . . . And congratulations are being extended to **Mike Davis**, who has become a father for the second time. Mike and his wife, Robin, recently welcomed nine-pound Kala Cherie Davis into the world! Along with 2½-year-old Amber, Mike's going to have quite a cheering section behind him!

Jack and Jerry Brisco have announced that they are leaving the Mid-Atlantic permanently. Fans in that area, as you might have guessed, are not exactly disappointed over the prospect of no more Briscos. "Who cares about the fans?" Jack asked? "We're not leaving because of the fans, we're leaving because of the rotten treatment we've received from the commissioners here. The NWA should have had the courtesy and good judgment to return the World tag team titles to us after **Rick Steamboat** and **Jay Youngblood** retired the belts. The hell with the Mid-Atlantic and the title. We don't need them." The Briscos are reportedly on their way to the Florida area, but our sources there have noted that no contracts have yet been filed with Florida wrestling officials.

An NWA spokesman said a tournament will be held to determine new NWA tag team champions, following the retirement of Steamboat.

And the latest news on the TV front is that our "*Pro Wrestling Illustrated* Press Conference" feature can be seen not only on *World Championship Wrestling* from Georgia, but on *Championship Wrestling From Florida* as well. Look for Craig Peters and me interviewing the top names in professional wrestling on your local stations that carry these fine programs.

And that's what's happening. See you at the matches! □

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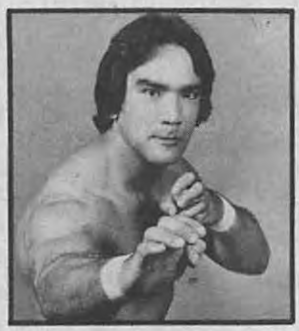

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CORRESPONDENTS REPORTS

(Continued from page 10)

Graham.

Both wrestlers held temporary advantages throughout the contest. Graham seemed to grow frustrated as the time limit neared. Superstar choked Von Raschke with a length of rope he brought into the ring. The Baron managed to escape Graham's grasp and steal his rope away.

Graham pushed Von Raschke into the turnbuckle and stunned him with an illegal karate thrust to the throat. Von Raschke, his breathing hampered, was overwhelmed by Graham and fell to defeat.

In other bouts, Billy Robinson and Jim Brunzell defeated Mr. Saito and David Shultz . . . Brad Rheingans defeated Bill White . . . Buck Zumhofe beat Bobby Heenan.

DALLAS, TEXAS *(Correspondent:* Linda Walker*)*—Dallas' Sportatorium was the sight of a World Class six-man tag team title match between champions The Fabulous Freebirds and the brother combination of Kerry, David, and Kevin Von Erich.

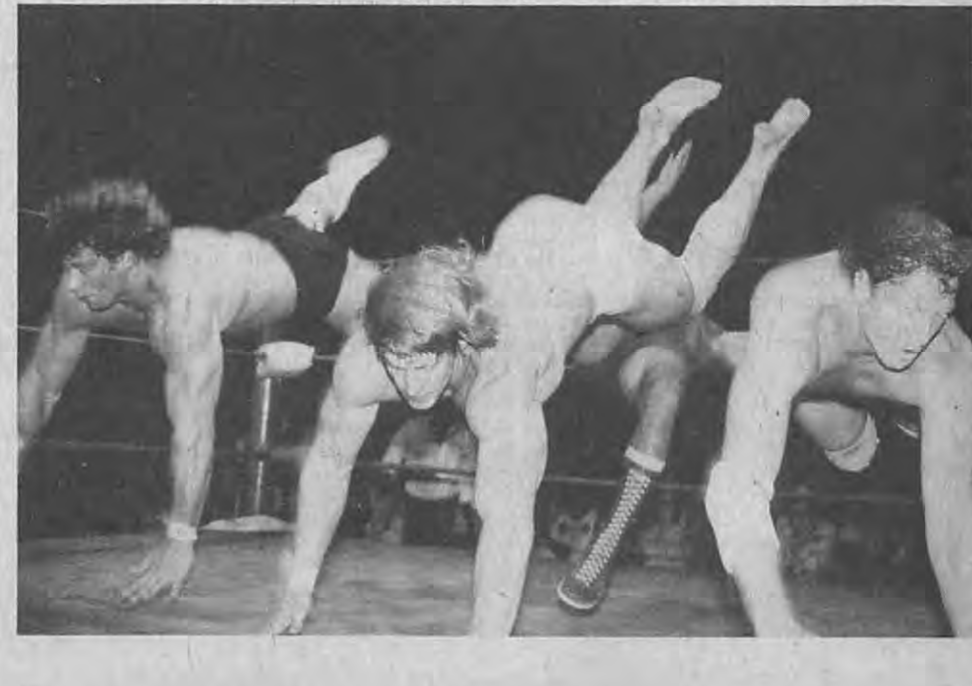
The Freebirds were, however, without leader Michael Hayes, who had lost a Loser Leave Town Steel Cage Match to Kerry Von Erich on Thanksgiving night. The promoters of World Class Wrestling allowed Freebirds Terry Gordy and Buddy Roberts to choose a third partner. The two contracted NWA World champion Ric Flair to round out their team.

Flair, a fine singles wrestler, didn't seem to fit the Freebirds' style, and the Von Erichs quickly took advantage of the situation. They controlled the match from beginning to end, easily defeating The Freebirds and Flair to regain the six-man tag trophy.

After the bout, Gordy attempted to make a statement over the arena's public address system, but his comments could not be heard. Gordy and Roberts left the ring without Flair, and without the championship.

In other bouts, Coco Samoa defeated Boris Zurkhov . . . Max, the Missing Link defeated Johnny Mantell . . . Chris Adams drew with Super Destroyer II . . . Super

Buddy Roberts is the recipient of a triple-dropkick by Kerry, Kevin, and David Von Erich!



Destroyer I defeated Jose Lothario.

MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE ***(Correspondent:*** **Chuck Morris*)***—The AWA Mid-Southern title was at stake as "The King," Jerry Lawler, battled challenger Randy "Macho Man" Savage inside a 15-foot high steel cage.

Lawler began the bout by pummeling Savage with closed fists. Savage retaliated with a foreign object he had managed to smuggle into the cage. After opening cuts on Lawler's forehead with the weapon, he rubbed the champion's wounds against the steel mesh of the cage.

Lawler wiped the blood out of his eyes and fought back. He managed to grab Savage's weapon and he bloodied his opponent's face. Savage fought back, knocked Lawler to the mat, and then climbed to the top of the cage.

Savage jumped off the top of the cage, poised for a brutal flying elbowdrop, but Lawler moved out of the way at the last possible moment. Savage landed on the canvas with a sickening thud, and Lawler took advantage of the situation.

As Lawler was about to pin Savage, however, Jos LeDuc ran into the arena and climbed over the cage, attacking Lawler from behind. LeDuc and Savage viciously double-teamed Lawler until he was rescued by Dutch Mantel and Art Crews. Lawler retained his title by disqualification.

In other bouts, Terry Taylor defeated Jos LeDuc by disqualification . . . The Fabulous Ones, The Rock 'n' Roll Express, Stagger Lee, and Bobby Eaton beat The Moondogs, The A-Team, The Russian Invader, and Norvell Austin . . . Bill Dundee defeated The Jaguar . . . Dutch Mantel beat Dennis Condrey by disqualification . . . The Grapplers drew with the Bruise Brothers. □

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YOUR LETTERS

(Continued from page 6)

favorite and shows great sportsmanship. Why should Wrestling II go into a man's family background? Lanny is his own man and has nothing to hide, not his name or his face (unlike Wrestling II).

I think Wrestling II should apologize to Lanny and his fans. Is Wrestling II afraid of losing his popularity in the Mid-South to Lanny Poffo?

BONNIE GRAFFEO
Franklin, LA

MORE ON WINDHAM & BASS

I enjoy your magazine very much and would like to make a few comments about Joseph Bua's article in the January 1984 issue of *The Wrestler* entitled "Windham vs. Bass: The Night Barry Windham Learned How To Hate."

First of all, Joseph Bua elaborated too much on the attack on Barry Windham by Ron Bass and Jos LeDuc. This attack was unjustifiable, of course, but I feel too much emphasis has been placed on this incident and not enough about an exceptional match recently shown on *Championship Wrestling From Florida.* This match was almost one hour in length and showed Barry at the peak of his form. He was simply fabulous. He won the match, which was held to determine who would win a saddle given to Ron

Barry Windham controls the action against Ron Bass in their Florida title vs. saddle match. The horrendous series of events that occurred after Barry won should be reported in our magazine, writes Janice Spevak.

Bass by Dusty Rhodes' mother when they were kids.

As Barry walked away from the ring with the saddle, Bass jumped him from behind, grabbed the saddle, and began to beat up on Barry senselessly. Then a newcomer to the Florida area, One Man Gang, joined in and tied his chain around Barry's neck. This showed how childish Bass really is, and how great a wrestler Barry has become. The photographs in your magazine depicted the fatigue both wrestlers went through, but I really would like to see more written up about this exciting match.

JANICE SPEVAK
Miami

[Editor's note: No sooner said than done, Janice. A full-length feature story on that very match, entitled "Barry Windham's Night Of Humiliation: The Match That Embarrassed Him Into Leaving The Country," appears in the April 1984 issue of our sister publication Inside Wrestling, *now on sale.]*

DYNAMITE KID: DYNAMITE!

I'm writing in regards to the "Official Wrestling Ratings" column in your magazine. I really enjoy this section, though there are times when I don't agree with your ratings for the Northwest. For instance, I have seen you put Chief Tapu in the top 10 a number of times, but of the many times I've seen him wrestle I've only seen him win once. I realize, however, that you get statistics from all over the Northwest, and I only see him in Portland, which makes your opinion more accurate.

As for your ratings column in the January 1984 issue, I definitely agree that the Dynamite Kid is number one. He is the hottest thing to hit the Portland area in a long time. He is hated by most everyone since he turned against

(Continued on page 58)

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YOUR LETTERS

(Continued from page 57)

Buddy Rose and joined Rip Oliver's clan, but you can't deny the fact that he is championship material. As I write this, he is a Pacific Northwest tag team champion along with The Assassin. What a team they make! As the Dynamite Kid himself says, "Often imitated, never duplicated."

Number one? You bet!

JUANITA DOWNING
Portland, OR

VICIOUS VON ERICH

An open letter to David Von Erich:

I just finished reading the February 1984 issue of *The Wrestler*, and specifically the article entitled "*The Wrestler* Polls The Stars: David Von Erich Is Wrestling's Most Vicious Opponent." That article states that you've been very aggressive in your matches. I understand your worries about the possible banning of the clawhold, but you have to admit to yourself that you *are* angry. But you must *not* take your anger out on your opponents. You stated in the January 1984 issue of *Inside Wrestling* that you use the clawhold to control your opponents. But, David, there are other ways to rid yourself of anger. Use weights, like Kerry does; they're great for getting rid of anger and frustration. But, please, don't destroy your reputation with aggressiveness or vicious attacks. Please—think about it. For your family and your fans. Thank you.

MARY ANN VASQUEZ
El Paso, TX ☐

David Von Erich, squeezing the blood from Ric Flair's head, should find a means other than violence to release his anger, according to reader Mary Ann Vasquez.

SPORTS REVIEW Wrestling

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YOU ASKED US

(Continued from page 12)

Wearing one of his beautiful robes, Ric Flair psychs himself up for his historic title match with Harley Race.

Q: "Where does NWA World champion Ric Flair buy his beautiful ring robes? I think they're gorgeous."—Anna Rouchanski, Charlotte, NC

A: "Do you think I just buy them off the rack, Anna?" Flair asked. "You can't get these robes in the men's department at Sears, you know. A very talented woman gets payed a lot of money to create my beautiful robes to my own exact specifications. I won't mention her name, because I don't want her being bombarded by orders from wrestlers who want to imitate me. The NWA World heavyweight champion has got to be glamorous, and my robes blend perfectly with my image. And, of course, I *must* have the best of everything."

Q: "My question is for Ted DiBiase. If he's such a remarkable wrestler, why doesn't he just wrestle without that glove on his hand? He shouldn't need it if he's as good as he is."—Shana Singleton, Gainsville, GA

A: "Listen, Shana, the glove has received medical clearance from the NWA, and I'll continue to wear it as long as I need it," DiBiase said. "Besides, I like to wear it. And I'll tell you this: Everyone is so worried that the glove is loaded with a foreign object that I don't have to load it up with anything more than my hand. If they want me to take it off, they're gonna have to make me, and I don't see anyone around with enough guts to do it."

Q: "I'd like to ask Jimmy Valiant if his friend Charlie Brown had anything to say to him before he left the Mid-Atlantic area?—George Magill, Roanoke, VA

A: "George, my man," Valiant said, "that boy from outta town had a whole lot of things to tell the 'Boogie Woogie Man' before he headed out. He told me to watch out for myself, and to take care of that Kabuki character. Then right before he took off, he turned to me and said, 'Before something happens that you might dread, you better grow eyes in back of your head.' He's right, you know. Ya gotta look out for those sneaky types."

According to Jim Valiant, Charlie Brown gave him a stern warning about Kabuki before leaving the Mid-Atlantic.

Q: "My question is for Rick Martel. Does it upset him that some people think of him as a sex symbol first and a wrestler second?"—Raina Huyska, St. Paul, MN

A: "I'm not making any money off of my looks," Martel said. "I get paid to wrestle, Raina. If women find me attractive, though, it doesn't bother me. I consider it a compliment."

Mike Rotondo has held the Southern title, he currently holds the Florida title, and he hopes on day to hold the World title.

Q: For Mike Rotondo: Now that you've held the Southern title, and just recently won the Florida State title, what else is there for you to accomplish?"—Ken Dalrymple, Ft. Myers, FL

A: "Ken, there's always going to be one thing, one goal, in front of me," Rotondo said. "Right now, my goal is to be the best State champ Florida has ever seen. And then, when I get my chance, I will challenge for the NWA World championship and put out the best effort I can. If I happen to win the World championship, my goal will be to defend it with honor. You always have to have a goal. First and foremost, however, I strive to be the best I can at all times. I owe that to my fans, my friends, but most of all, to myself." □

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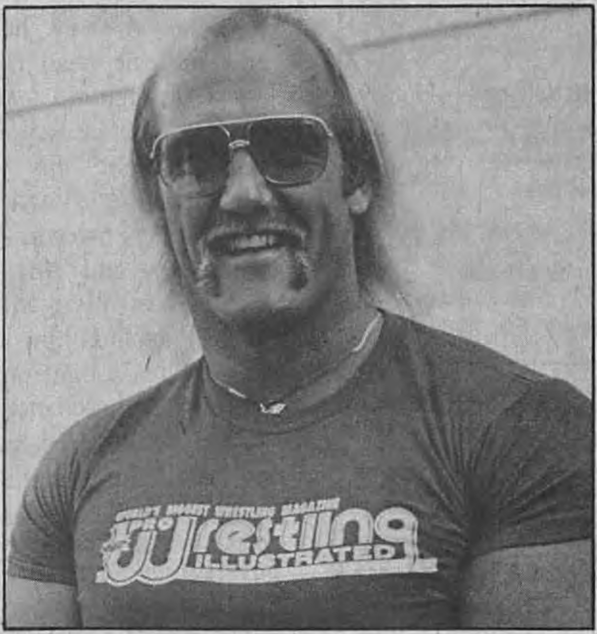

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HULK HOGAN

(Continued from page 35)

Masked Superstar, number five WWF contender: "I have wrestled Hulk Hogan before, and I can tell you from personal experience that

he is a man to be reckoned with. He is an incredibly strong athlete, he will go to almost any lengths to win a match, and he has a very good strategic head on his shoulders. I don't mind telling you, I'd like the chance to wrestle him again. Despite his considerable strengths, he is a man who can be beaten. Every wrestler has his own weaknesses, and I'm certain that Hogan has his. Most of my matches against him in Montreal were tag team confrontations, and I never had the chance to fully explore his weaknesses, but if it's true that he's coming to the WWF, I'm glad. I want to wrestle him. And I promise everyone right now: I *will* find his weaknesses, and Hogan *will* go down to defeat."

Akeem has rarely come across a man whom he could not knock off-balance with his 281 pounds (above). Elijah, apparently intimidated, stays on the mat despite Hogan's challenge to wrestle (below).

Matt Brock, veteran wrestling analyst: "I haven't seen the rumor mill grinding this frantically since the days before Bruno Sammartino announced his retirement. If I were Hogan, I'd run straight to the WWF like a bat out of hell. It makes a lot of sense. The WWF is in a state of complete chaos right now. The Iron Sheik has taken Backlund's title away from him, and after Skoaland threw in the towel for Backlund, I don't think he has the self-respect and the *moxie* necessary to stage a capable rematch. And don't tell me that The Iron Sheik has enough tenacity to hold on to the belt for longer than a month or two. His win over Backlund was a fluke. Any wrestler who wants a taste of instant glory ought to hightail it to the WWF and line up for title shots against the Sheik. Believe me, it's going to be a long line. And if Hogan is on that line, you can bet that he's got a better than even shot at winning the belt. The only X-factor about Hogan is where do his loyalties in the WWF lie? Sure, he's a fan favorite all throughout the AWA, but he threw the rulebook into the dumper last time he was here. Hogan used to be managed by Fred Blassie, and Blassie manages The Iron Sheik. I could conceive of a scenario where Hogan would support Iron Sheik as champion, helping him to strengthen his—and Blassie's—power base here. I could conceive of it, but I don't think it's going to happen. Hogan is too power-hungry, he's too much of a sucker for the spotlight of fame. My bet is that if and when Hogan comes to the WWF, he'll be first in line for a title shot. And then everyone's going to have to line up and wait for him." □

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Hank was perpetually broke. One night he got together with some friends, and they decided to cast the MONEY SPELL. The very next day, Hank received in the mail a check for some $250 worth of insurance. (He had never heard of the company that sent the check, he was not insured with them, and had never even made a claim–but he accepted the money.) Another member of the group that used the spell, a 40-year-old secretary, received an automobile as a gift! All the other members of the group received amazing windfalls of money, as well! You'll see how Dexter, a retiree, lives RENT FREE *and* receives $200 a week at the age of 78, with a secret you'll find in this Witch Book! You'll see how Claudine, a secretary, was able to wear the finest, most expensive furs–FREE–and spend weekends at an expensive ski lodge in the mountains, where she met a wonderful man! How Ruth L., a widow–with nothing but a small pension, and a little savings–received her dream house, by using a simple 5-minute ritual on page 38 of this book!

Using the same Witchcraft secrets, YOU can achieve peace of mind and freedom from money worries for the rest of your life!

Now! Let This Amazing Witch Book Bring You INFINITE WEALTH, FINE POSSESSIONS, A COMFORTABLE NEW HOME, FINANCIAL SECURITY, LOVE, CONTROL OVER OTHERS, And More—Easily And Automatically!

For centuries, these Witchcraft secrets were hushed up, so that those in power could stay in power! Feudal lords kept their bondsmen as slaves. Factory owners kept their employees in dreaded sweatshops, because these masters knew they must not allow their workers to realize that they need not labor their lives away. Witchcraft was suppressed because it works! Not because of any "evil" in it. If it hadn't worked, no one would have worried about it. If you want to gain power, all you need is this amazing Witch Book!

By using these Witchcraft secrets, you too can change your life and gain health, wealth, someone to love–or anything else–surely, swiftly and automatically!

• **THE WITCH'S MONEY JAR!**—You'll discover the secret of the Witch's Money Jar, a mysterious jar that fills with money–whenever you want or need it! All you need is some water, pennies, and an ordinary jar or bowl! You'll be amazed at the speed with which it fills with money–a seemingly endless supply of needed cash!

• **THE WITCH'S MONEY MAGNET!**—You'll see how to magnetize a dollar bill so that it multiples! All you need to make your own Witch's Money Magnet is a dollar bill, a green candle, and the words on page 28. Once you do this, your dollar will double and keep doubling! You'll enjoy glittering luxuries, and start living like a millionaire, as Witches do!

• **THE WITCH'S BLACK MIRROR!**—Just as your TV set has been called your "window on the world," so the Black Mirror is your "window on the psychic world"–the world of the unknown. Making your own personal Black Mirror takes only a few moments and can open the way to unguessable visions. All you need is a bowl of water, some ink, and the chant on page 23. Suddenly you will see scenes from other places and times, or any scene you wish to see!

IN THIS WITCH BOOK YOU'LL DISCOVER . . .

- How to Cast Spells that Really Work!
- Your Magic Window on the World!
- Personal Protection!
- Telepathy Made Easy!
- Influencing Others to Do Your Bidding!
- Controlling a Conversation!
- The Technique of Silent Persuasion!
- Using Witchcraft to Find Friends!
- How to Find the Lover You Want!
- How to Bring Your Perfect Mate to You!
- How to Dominate Others!
- Witchcraft Power for Money!
- Withcraft Power to Make You Irresistible to Others!
- Spells for Finding Lost Objects!
- How to Always Win with Luck Spells!
- More Power for Bigger Goals!
- Inhaling Cosmic Energy!
- Recharging Your Cosmic Batteries!
- Raising Your Vital Energy Level!
- How to Keep Evil Forces Away!

YOU CAN HEAL YOURSELF AS WITCHES DO!

Feeling sick today? Plagued by a lot of troublesome illnesses? Perhaps some relative is sick and constantly demanding your attention? Or perhaps it is even a pet that needs help? With the MAGIC POWER OF WITCHCRAFT, you can cure anything, say authors Gavin and Yvonne Frost: "In our experience . . . we have not found a single incurable disease!"

• **ANDY DISSOLVES A GALLSTONE!**—Andy M. developed gallstones. When his illness became too troublesome to ignore, he went to a doctor. Urine tests revealed that he was chronically alkaline. His body was badly out of balance. Using this Witchcraft method to restore balance to the mind and body–in a short while, X-rays showed that he had no more gallstones! Andy never again suffered the excruciating pain of passing stones!

In the same way, say Gavin and Yvonne Frost, almost all illness can be prevented. You are actually employing an ancient Witchcraft method to remove diseased tissue! Even if you do not have any belief in the results, the power will work for you!

One woman, who had been in a wheelchair for 26 years, due to polio and arthritis, used the Witchcraft healing method, and reported that she had no pain and could walk and garden again! A man reported that his son's deep 3rd degree burns miraculously healed overnight!

• **SO SIMPLE A CHILD USES IT!**—A 4-year-old girl asked if she could try to heal a man who was limping–due to a torn ligament–with this simple Witchcraft healing method. In a matter of moments, she started her chant, laying her hands on the weak ankle. The man was miraculously cured! To skeptics, this should be convincing PROOF that anyone can use it!

AMAZING POWER CAN BE YOURS!

Whether you want infinite wealth, or just a comfortable new home, financial security, fine possessions, love, companionship, new health and vigor, power to control others, secret knowledge, protection from evil, or anything else, the magic power of Witchcraft can bring it to you quickly, easily and automatically! It's the easiest thing in the world!

• **HOW TO SEE INTO THE FUTURE!**—Would you like to be able to see the future? You CAN with the magic Black Mirror you'll see how to make on page 23. All you need is some ink and a bowl of water. Then use the chant on this page, and you will be able to see many things. One man uses it to read tomorrow's newspaper. YOU can use it to check the stock market or that important horse race!

• **MAKE TIME RUN BACKWARD OR FORWARD!**—A Witch uses ancient methods to make time stand still or to run it backward or forward! To make your face look young or old at will, all you need is some morning dew, and the instructions on page 27. You can fly through time and space, on astral wings, go anywhere, do anything, with the simple method on page 126. You can visit a friend, look in on an acquaintance and see what he is doing–even appear in someone's dreams, and convince that person to do whatever you wish!

• **SECRETS OF SILENT PERSUASION!**—There is a magic handshake that Witches often use, revealed on page 62. With this secret, you can implant a thought in someone's mind! You can use this Witchcraft power to dominate others! Control your boss! Make someone love you! Leave your enemies groveling in the dust! There is even a gazing technique Witches use on page 45, for identical thoughts. With this secret, you can read your friend's mind and share his or her identical thoughts!

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MEET THE AUTHORS

GAVIN FROST, B.Sc., Ph.D., D.D., is Archbishop of the Church of Wicca, New Bern, North Carolina with national headquarters in Salem, Missouri, branches in several states and worldwide membership. He is Marshal of the Gold Star of England, with the right to wear the Saffron Robe and one of the very few Witches in the Western Hemisphere privileged to wear the authentic mark of initiation on his wrist. Although descended from a long line of mystics and scholars, and formerly a Vice-President and Director of International Operations for major aerospace companies, he prefers to be thought of as a humble teacher.

Mrs. YVONNE FROST, A.A., D.D., with her husband Gavin Frost, devotes her time to giving private instruction and publishing *Survival*, the newsletter of the Church of Wicca, of which she is a Bishop.

Articles by or about Gavin and Yvonne Frost have appeared in such national publications as *Midnight* and the *National Enquirer*.

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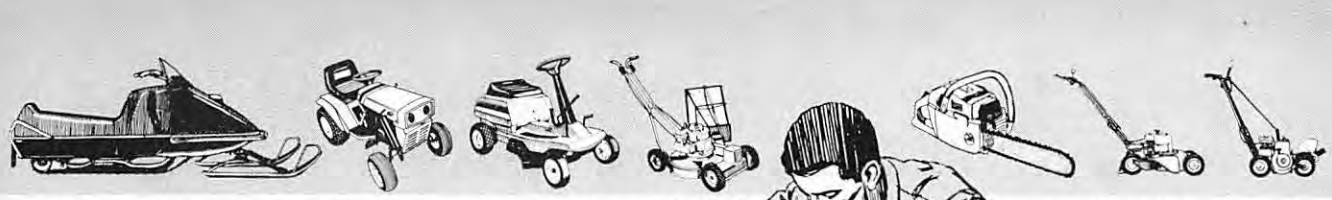

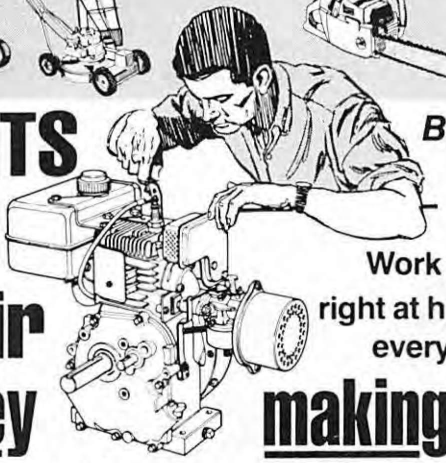

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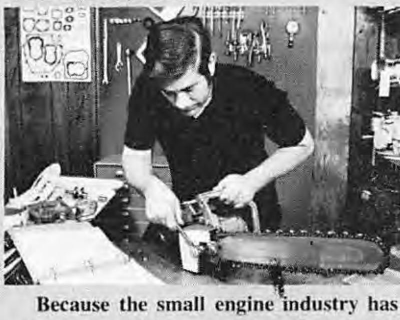

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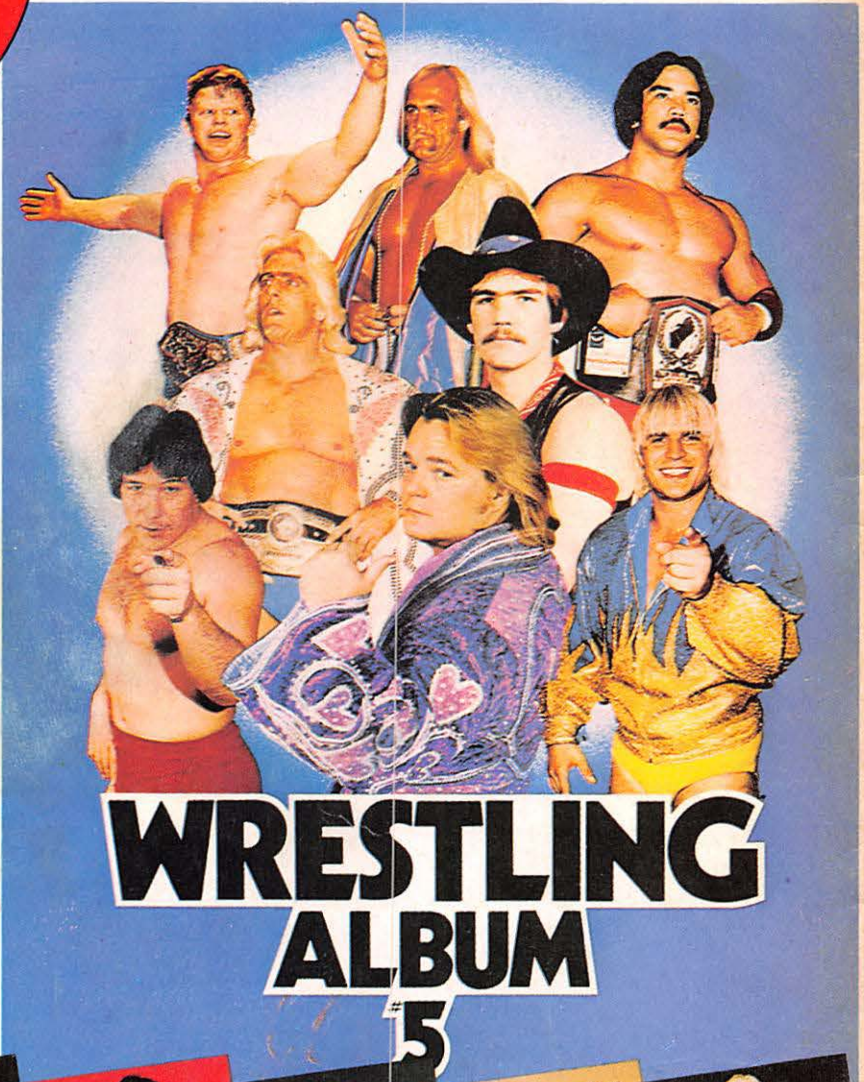
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